

0231

Every Thursday • Issue #116 • December 18 - December 31, 1997

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OUR CRITICS PAN AND PRAISE A PILE OF CHRISTMAS CDS • PAGE 26



# FIRST NIGHT FESTIVAL

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TITANIC

CAMERON DEFENDS \$200-MILLION EPIC

Film By Dan McLeod • Page 33

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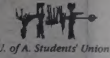
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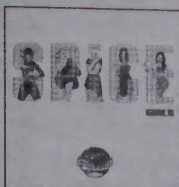
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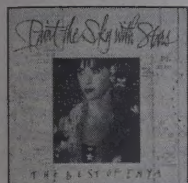
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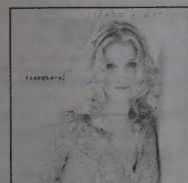
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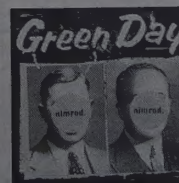
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# Keep Christ out of Christmas : Edmonton: the poverty capital of Canada

## OPINION

BY ROY FISHER

I'm going to burn in hell for this, but I want to start a brand new holiday movement—a movement to keep Christ out of Christmas.

Put down those pitchforks and extinguish those torches. I'm not saying we should treat the Yuletide season as a commercial greed extravaganza. I mean, Christmas ads that appear on Remembrance Day push my buttons too.

No, I'm talking about the God factor. The religious rituals. The theological theory. The didactical dogma. I'm talking about the movement I've paraphrased in my opening paragraph, the movement to "Keep Christ in Christmas."

Holders of this ideal contend the commercialization of the Christmas season has taken the focus away from what the holiday represents. Christmas, they say, should be a celebration of Jesus Christ, a time of compassion and good will towards your fellow sentient carbon-based life-form.

Sounds laudable. My question is this: what the heck has one got to do with the other?

Or to put it this way, why do Christians think they have a monopoly on compassion?

Yes, Christ, as he appeared in the Bible, was a genuinely praiseworthy individual. He was a New Age sensitive guy. He was anti-violence, in touch with his feelings and worked at a grassroots level to help people solve their problems. But as far as I can tell, those values are also part of most

non-Christian religions as well.

It seems to me you don't have to be Christian to be nice to other people.

Let's look at it another way. Mr. Smith is a God-fearing, church-going Christian who gives generously to the orphan fund and volunteers regularly at the local homeless shelter because the Bible tells him that's the right thing to do. Mr. Jones is a Godless atheist (I know that's redundant) who gives generously to the Orphan fund and volunteers regularly at the local homeless shelter because that's what he thinks is the right thing to do.

Now, who's the better person? Is it the guy who was good because he was told to—or the guy who was good because that's what he thinks is right?

My money's on Jones. But when Jones bites the big one he's going down in flames—because he didn't keep the Sabbath holy.

"But Christmas is a holy tradition!" comes the cry from the pulpits. "By ignoring its sacred aspects, you're insulting us hardworking, God-fearing folk!"

Perhaps. Then again, whenever grace is said at a meal, whenever "God save the Queen" is sung at a sports event, whenever Parliament or Legislature or city council or a school day is opened with prayer, whenever Billy Graham or *Touched by an Angel* appears on television, you're insulting us hardworking, atheist folk (I suspect *Touched by an Angel* and Billy Graham are insulting to church-going folk, too).

If some Christians are so hung up on the sacred stuff, maybe they

should take a good hard look at what Christianity is supposed to mean. Is it really mantras, incense and bread wafers? Or is it peace on Earth and compassion towards the people around you? Perhaps by emphasizing the sacred you're taking away from the purpose.

It's not even like the date itself is theologically significant. When the high muck-a-mucks decided on Dec. 25 way back when, they had no idea when Christ's actual birthday was—they were merely trying to assimilate pagan followers into the Christian fold. It was a time-honored technique: replace a pagan celebration with a Christian one that took place on the same day. If the populace was going to celebrate a religious holiday anyway, it might as well be the right religion. Know where decorating the Christmas tree came from? It's a pagan tradition. So's mistletoe.

While we're on the subject of Christmas bumping out other faiths: I could point out how hypocritical it is to celebrate a religion that sanctioned wholesale slaughter during the "liberation" of the Holy Lands. But it's an unfair cop-out to remind Christians about the Crusades—it's kind of like saying "Gee, that sounds like something Hitler would say" in debate club.

I'll just point out that, as evidenced by revelations of pedophilic priests, so-called Christians can be pretty nasty people—much like the rest of the world. Christians don't have a monopoly on cruelty either, in case you hadn't noticed.

So, during this Christmas season, be nice to people. Give generously to charities, even if they're secular ones. Smile at passersby on the sidewalk, even if they're wearing turbans. Have Christmas dinner with your family, even if your daughter's a Wiccan. Hug a Satanist. Okay, hug a Hindu—Satanists wear too many pointy bits.

Exchange gifts—but as a gesture of warmth, not of greed. Be compassionate, caring and kind. Celebrate the Christmas season whether you're spiritual, atheist or just plain confused.

Christmas no longer belongs to the Christians—and that ain't a bad thing.

## FEATURE

BY MICHAEL WALTERS

New research from the Edmonton Social Planning Council (ESPC) suggests that Edmonton has become the child poverty capital of Canada.

The study focused on six major metropolitan areas of six major cities in Canada. Other cities included were Toronto, Montreal, Winnipeg, Vancouver and Halifax. It was discovered that Edmonton has the highest percentage of families living in absolute poverty with 8.1 per cent. This number has risen from 3.3 per cent in 1993, the year Ralph Klein became Premier of Alberta.

There are 15,100 more children living in absolute poverty than there were in 1993. Absolute poverty is the condition in which a family lacks ample income to properly provide for itself the basic necessities of food, clothing and shelter. In absence of a formal identified poverty line, the ESPC considers anyone living on one half of the Low Income Cut Off (LICO), which is standardized by Statistics Canada at \$15,700 per year for a family of four, to be living in absolute poverty. This means that in our city almost 12,000 families with children are trying to survive on less than \$16,000 a year.

Since these findings are only accurate up until 1995 (1996 data will be revealed on Dec. 22. Watch for a follow-up here in *Vue*), it doesn't bode well for our current government's faithful adherence to paying down a debt which the Tories created.

"To change, the government has to take a legitimate stand on these issues. It's not the kind of thing that the market itself can overcome," says Brian Bechtel, the Executive Director of ESPC.

Alberta's social and labor market policies have been based on the view that the labor market has the capacity to solve the problem

of poverty. Though the result of this single-minded conviction—added to the rush to cut public expenditures—has created policies that force our society's most vulnerable people into low-paying, sub-poverty jobs. This is coupled with a strong double standard displayed by the government to virtually eliminate people services and the social safety net in order to pay down the debt, but at the same time to have written off debts in excess of \$200 million to some of the richest multi-national foreign corporations in the world. These of course would be the Al-Pac joint venture with Mitsubishi Corp. and Oji paper—two large Japanese corporations—and also the Millar-Western Fiasco in which the government wrote off \$244 million to Edmonton-based businessman Mac Millar, who is the company's principle in Millar Western. So as in the past corporate debt continues to be the leading cause of a high debt, and the poor and working middle class are the ones who appear to be suffering the most.

In the all-families categories Edmonton again has the worst rating, tied with Montreal with 4.9 per cent of its citizens living in absolute poverty. The "all families" category includes single people and couples without children.

Alberta continues to have the lowest minimum wage in the country. Annual incomes from minimum wage jobs fall well below one half of LICO. Welfare incomes in Alberta are actually slightly higher than one half of the LICO poverty measure despite the fact that Alberta consistently has among the lowest levels of support to welfare recipients.

For families with more than one child, welfare rates are higher than one half of LICO, but minimum wage jobs again fall behind.

"We need studies like this. Welfare rates go up or down depending on the political whim of the time," says Bechtel. "Since 1993 we'd like to say that there's been a lot of movement around the low income cut off, but it's more of a race to the bottom. LICO is hard to measure poverty by so that's why we aimed our study at one half of it. We wanted to show the whole picture. The provincial government ends up arguing about numbers instead of the issues. They say that \$33,000 a year isn't so bad—well, that's the top of it. They always sample from the top even if most people are at the bottom. LICO is actually disguising a deteriorating situation."

Many of the responses to the study has verified the Social Planning Council's findings.

"Responses from the social and human services agencies have told us that our data is confirming what they are hearing from their front-line staff. Things are getting worse," says Bechtel.

The response from the Tory Government, namely Dr. Lyle Oberg, Social Services Minister, was that Bechtel was politically motivated in revealing the data from the study.

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# a MINUTE at the MOVIES by Todd James

**ALIEN RESURRECTION** Why let a little thing like death spell the end of a popular money-making franchise? Sigourney Weaver (*The Ice Storm*) returns as Ripley in this fourth instalment of the *Alien* series, set 200 years after our hero died while still carrying an alien seed. Thanks to that old standby—cloning—Ripley will again tangle with her nemesis. With regeneration carried out by scientists experimenting with human/alien hybrids, Ripley and her gestating alien friend are brought back aboard a specially built space lab. The newly-cloned Ripley is colder, more cynical and has more than a little alien in her own genetic make-up. Of course the slobbering one is back, breeding and waiting for its opportunity to chew up a few humans. Winona Ryder (*The Crucible*) plays Analee, part of a team of smugglers with their own secret agenda to stop the experiments. Ripley's character, given some of the alien's traits, offers a fresh dimension and it's needed because the rest of this ensemble cast including Ron Perlman (*Beauty and the Beast*) and Ryder, is not very interesting. Matters aren't helped any by some truly awful dialogue. The creature is given an update thanks to computer-generated effects but what we get is a pretty standard sci-fi horror flick that lacks the real heart-thumping jump-out-of-your-seat frights of the earlier instalments. It's predictable stuff punctuated by the usual large and messy helping of gore. **C-**

**ANASTASIA** It's a sure sign of the holiday season when animated epics start showing up in droves. *Anastasia* is set in the post-revolution Soviet Union of the early 20th century. Meg Ryan (*Admitted to Love*) is the voice of Anya. She's unaware that she is in fact the princess Anastasia, one of two survivors of the Romanovs, the former ruling Russian dynasty. John Cusack (*Grosse Pointe Blank*) and Kelsey Grammer (*Frasier*) are the voices of Dmitri and Vladimir—a couple of con men who have devised a ruse to convince Anastasia's grandmother (Angela Lansbury, TV's *Murder, She Wrote*) that her lost granddaughter is still alive. Dmitri and Vladimir stumble upon Anya and, dazzled by her striking resemblance to Anastasia, convince her that she is the real princess. Forget about brushing up on your knowledge of Russia and the Soviet Union. In a bit of revisionist history, Rasputin, with voice provided by Christopher Lloyd (*Back to the Future*) is an evil dead sorcerer who has laid a curse on the Romanovs. Together with an ever-present cutesy sidekick, a wisecracking albino bat (voice by

Hank Azaria), Rasputin will stop at nothing to find and destroy Anastasia before she's reunited with her grandmother. Despite falling body parts, Rasputin is a surprisingly uninteresting and incapable villain. We've come to expect and we get spectacular animation but the lack of originality and drama in this anemic cartoon is palpable. Parents and kids alike will sense the lack of tension to the story—these just aren't characters who capture the imagination. Even the songs they burst into at every opportunity are far from memorable. You certainly won't be humming them after the lights are on. **C-**

**FLUBBER** This remake of *The Absent-Minded Professor* captures the silliness and fun of the original with the added bonus of special effects never dreamed of in 1961. Robin Williams (*Jack*) plays the eccentric but brilliant professor Philip Brainard. He's so wrapped up in his experiments a little thing like the wedding to his sweetheart Sara (Marcia Gay Harden) is easy for him. Due perennials back guy Chris MacDonald (*Leave it to Beaver*) as Brainard's rival, who tries to steal the professor's girl and his formula for a revolutionary new energy source dubbed "Flubber." The animated gelatinous goo is the real star in this slapstick romp. Kids should take to it like Jell-O pudding. **C++**

**FOR RICHER OR POORER** Two hot TV stars take this predictable nonsense to an almost tolerable level. Tim Allen (*Home Improvement*) and Kirstie Alley (*Veronica's Closet*) play a squabbling filthy-rich couple forced to take hiding in a remote Amish community after learning that their accountant (Wayne Knight) has embezzled money and left them in hot water with the I.R.S. It's a see-through comedy with an easily-called plot line but Allen and Alley's attempt to blend into the austere Amish lifestyle is mostly syrup-free fun. **C++**

**HOME ALONE 3** *Home Alone 3* gets a new, cute kid to take over from the now aged McCauley Culkin. It's a brand-new family with the same old premise but Alex B. Linz shines as an eight-year-old forced to defend his home. In true *Home Alone* fashion, Alex foils a trio of bumbling thugs in search of a computer chip stolen from the U.S. Defense Department. This slapstick schtick is slickly delivered and for a well-worn plot, the fun is airy and the stunts at the expense of the bad guys are often very funny. **C++**

**THE MATCHMAKER** Janeane Garofalo

(*The Truth about Cats and Dogs*) takes her anti-star shtick to Ireland as the public relations lackey for a Massachusetts senator hoping to use his Irish roots to get re-elected in a hotly-contested campaign. In a small Irish town, in the midst of a matchmaker's convention, Garofalo rubs shoulders with the locals in hopes of locating the senator's kin for only mildly amusing results. This is a small and at times charming movie. Garofalo continues to be an appealing leading lady whose presence illuminates even pale films. **C++**

**THE RAINMAKER** Francis Ford Coppola directs the sixth John Grisham novel to leap to the big screen—and it may be the least strident of the lot. Matt Damon (*Courage Under Fire*) plays Rudy, a young lawyer who takes on his first case against a powerful insurance firm and their team of lawyers, led by John Voight. Danny Davito plays Rudy's lone protégé, a law student who has failed the bar exam on six separate occasions. *The Rainmaker* is spared the humorless fate of other Grisham novels thanks to a large dose of dry, dark, comedy. This David-and-Goliath story is helped along by newcomer Damon's charming performance and a cast that includes quirky appearances from Mickey Rourke (*Angel Heart*, *Barfly*) as a Memphis lawyer with deep mob ties, Danny Glover (*Lethal Weapon*) as a liberal judge with a soft spot for nailing fat cats and Claire Danes (*Romeo & Juliet*) as an abused wife taken in by Rudy. **C++**

**SCREAM 2** *Scream* was the surprise horror hit of a year ago. It's no surprise that *Scream 2*, from Wes Craven, has little of the originality that made *Scream* such a clever spoof of slasher movies. Jada Pinkett and Tori Spelling are all potential victims along with survivors of the first movie, including Neve Campbell. Courtney Cox returns as Gale Weathers, the tabloid reporter who covered the initial murders, wrote a best-selling novel and turned it into a movie which has spawned a copy-cat killer. This copy-cat plot has little of the fun of *Scream* and a lot of dull slash and chase scenes. A debate within the movie centres on sequels—are they better or worse than the originals? With *Scream 2*, the question is answered convincingly. **C-**

**STARSHIP TROOPERS** Subtlety is not a part of director Paul Verhoeven's (*Basic Instinct*, *Showgirls*) vocabulary—but then who needs subtlety when your subject is giant alien insects attempting to take over the planet? Verhoeven creates a loud, brash and extremely violent science fiction adventure based on a Robert A. Heinlein story and starring a large unknown cast of exuberant young actors. In this distant future the planet is divided into two groups, those who serve in the military and those who do not. To be part of the military is to be assured of a life of glory. Casper Van Dien plays Rico, a young college graduate who joins the federal infantry not for patriotic reasons but to win the heart of Carmen (Denise Richards), a budding starship pilot who is being wooed by Rico's rival

(Patrick Muldoon). The first hour of *Starship Troopers* is very nearly a send-up of every life-in-the-army movie made and it's an opportunity to get to know this likeable cast that includes Jake Busey and Neil Patrick Harris (you know him as Doogie Howser). When the bugs finally do arrive (after annihilating several million humans on Earth), the blood and guts fly liberally. This is one of the goofiest gore-fests I've seen in a while and it's not for the squeamish. Despite the high-tech special effects, director Verhoeven allows for a lot of campy fun. This movie does not take itself seriously, allowing for the kind of tongue-in-cheek humor that made another alien invasion movie, *Independence Day*, such a huge success. **C++**

## VUE Ratings



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Daily 11:00 1:30 3:45 6:30 7:00 7:20 9:25 9:50 PM	
Presented in Digital Theatre Sound	
<b>THE JACKAL</b>	PG
Daily 12:00 4:00 6:55 9:20 PM	
Brutal Violence & Coarse language	
<b>RICHER OR POORER</b>	PG
Daily 1:30 4:10 6:50 9:15 PM	
Disturbing scenes	
<b>ANASTASIA</b>	G
Presented in Digital Theatre Sound	
Daily 1:35 4:15 PM	
<b>FULL MONTY</b>	M
Daily 7:25 9:40 PM	
Violence & coarse language	
<b>HOME ALONE 3</b>	PG
Daily 1:40 4:20 7:15 9:45 PM	
<b>ALIEN RESURRECTION</b>	M
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<b>THE JACKAL</b>	PG
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<b>ANASTASIA</b>	G
Presented in Digital Theatre Sound	
Daily 1:35 4:15 PM	
<b>FULL MONTY</b>	M
Daily 7:25 9:40 PM	
Violence & coarse language	
<b>HOME ALONE 3</b>	PG
Daily 1:40 4:20 7:15 9:45 PM	
<b>ALIEN RESURRECTION</b>	M
Daily 1:45 4:25 7:15 9:55 PM	
Gory violence. Coarse language	
<b>HOUSE HUNT</b>	PG
Daily 1:55 4:35 7:30 10:00 PM	

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**ANASTASIA**  
Daily 1:30 3:40 PM

**ALIEN RESURRECTION**  
Daily 7:30 9:55 PM

Gory violence, coarse language.

**SCREEN 2**  
Daily 1:10 1:40 4:00 4:30 6:45 7:15 9:15 9:45 PM  
No passes accepted. Brutal violence & coarse language.

**RICHER OR POORER**  
Daily 1:50 4:20 7:10 9:40 PM. Coarse language

**THE JACKAL**  
Daily 9:30 PM

Brutal violence & coarse language.

**HOME ALONE 3**  
Daily 1:15 1:45 3:25 3:55 6:40 8:50 PM  
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**L.A. CONFIDENTIAL**  
Daily 8:20 PM. Mac Sat/Sun 2:20 PM. No 8:20 on Dec. 24

#### WHITEMUD CROSSING

2211-108 Street • 431-3985

EDUCED MATINEES \$3.99

**ALIEN RESURRECTION**  
Daily 7:10 9:25 PM. Mac Sat/Sun 2:40 PM

Gory violence. Coarse language.

**HOME ALONE 3**  
Daily 6:45 9:00 PM

Mac Sat/Sun 1:10 3:30 PM

**SCREEN 2**  
Daily 7:05 7:30 7:35 9:55 PM

Mac Sat/Sun 1:10 1:30 3:30 6:15 PM

Brutal violence & coarse language.

**ANASTASIA**  
Mac Sat/Sun 1:20 4:00 PM

**THE JACKAL**  
Daily 6:55 9:15 PM

Brutal violence and coarse language.

**RICHER OR POORER**  
Daily 7:30 10:00 PM

Mac Sat/Sun 1:45 4:30 PM

Coarse language.

#### WESTMOUNT 4

111 Ave. & Grand Road • 451-7381

ADULTS \$6.99 CHILD/SENIOR \$3.99

MATINEES/TUESDAYS \$3.99

**ANASTASIA**  
Daily Mac Sat/Sun 2:30 4:30 PM

**ALIEN RESURRECTION**  
Daily 7:30 10:00 PM

Gory violence, coarse language.

**SCREEN 2**  
Daily 7:20 9:50 PM

Mac Sat/Sun 1:30 4:00 PM. Brutal violence & coarse language.

**HOME ALONE 3**  
Daily 7:00 PM

Mac Sat/Sun 2:20 4:20 PM

**RICHER OR POORER**  
Daily 7:10 9:40 PM. Mac Sat/Sun 1:00 3:30 PM

Presented in Digital Theatre Sound. Coarse language.

## Vue movies

**Metro Cinema**  
Ziedler Hall, Citadel Theatre  
9828-101A Ave. 425-9212

**CASABLANCA (1943)** All right, it has nothing to do with Christmas, but it's still a great film which deserves to be seen on the big screen. The inimitable Humphrey Bogart stars as Rick, an American expat running a cheap gin joint in Casablanca during WWII, and Ingrid Bergman is the beautiful freedom fighter he left behind in Paris. One of the most enduring screen romances of all time, the film features wonderful performances from the likes of Claude Rains, Peter Greenstreet, Paul Henreid and, of course, Peter Lorre. Don't bother listening for "Play it again, Sam": the line is "Play it, Sam—you played it for her, now play it for me!" Dir. Michael Curtiz (Dec. 19-20, 11:00 p.m.)

## Alternative Video Spot

Locally Owned and Operated

10050 - 82 Ave. • ph. 439-2233 • fax 433-1409 (WE RESERVE)

<http://www.compumart.ab.ca/altvid/>

### New Releases

**CONTACT**  
A SIMPLE WISH  
MY BEST FRIEND'S WEDDING  
CON AIR

### Alternative

**COSI**  
LONE WOLF & CUB (Subtitles)  
THE BORROWER  
PSYCHE OUT (Jack Nicholson)

DVD'S FOR SALE & RENTAL

THE BEST VIDEO STORE IN TOWN

### CINEMAS 6

West Edmonton Mall  
Phase I Entrance 44 • 444-1331

ANY FILM \$4.99 TUESDAY \$2.99

**FLUBBER**  
Daily 7:10 9:00 PM. Mac Sat/Sun 2:20 PM

**BOOGIE NIGHTS**  
Daily 8:00 9:30 PM. Mac Sat/Sun 2:00 PM. No 8:00 PM show on Dec. 24

**RAINMAKER**  
Daily 7:00 9:30 PM. Mac Sat/Sun 2:10 PM

**L.A. CONFIDENTIAL**  
Daily 8:20 PM. Mac Sat/Sun 2:20 PM. No 8:20 on Dec. 24

#### EDUCED MATINEES \$3.99

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Gory violence. Coarse language.

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Daily 7:05 7:30 7:35 9:55 PM

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Brutal violence & coarse language.

**ANASTASIA**  
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Daily 6:55 9:15 PM

Brutal violence and coarse language.

**RICHER OR POORER**  
Daily 7:30 10:00 PM

Mac Sat/Sun 1:45 4:30 PM

Coarse language.

#### WESTMOUNT 4

111 Ave. & Grand Road • 451-7381

ADULTS \$6.99 CHILD/SENIOR \$3.99

MATINEES/TUESDAYS \$3.99

**ANASTASIA**  
Daily Mac Sat/Sun 2:30 4:30 PM

**ALIEN RESURRECTION**  
Daily 7:30 10:00 PM

Gory violence, coarse language.

**SCREEN 2**  
Daily 7:20 9:50 PM

Mac Sat/Sun 1:30 4:00 PM. Brutal violence & coarse language.

**HOME ALONE 3**  
Daily 7:00 PM

Mac Sat/Sun 2:20 4:20 PM

**RICHER OR POORER**  
Daily 7:10 9:40 PM. Mac Sat/Sun 1:00 3:30 PM

Presented in Digital Theatre Sound. Coarse language.

### CINEMAS 6

West Edmonton Mall  
Phase I Entrance 44 • 444-1331

ANY FILM \$4.99 TUESDAY \$2.99

**FLUBBER**  
Daily 7:10 9:00 PM. Mac Sat/Sun 2:20 PM

**BOOGIE NIGHTS**  
Daily 8:00 9:30 PM. Mac Sat/Sun 2:00 PM. No 8:00 PM show on Dec. 24

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Daily 7:00 PM

Mac Sat/Sun 2:20 4:20 PM

**RICHER OR POORER**  
Daily 7:10 9:40 PM. Mac Sat/Sun 1:00 3:30 PM

Presented in Digital Theatre Sound. Coarse language.



**AREA 51**  
PRESENTS  
**FRIDAY, DEC. 19**

**BROKEN NOSE**  
with **LURE**  
and **DRONE**

**DEC. 21**  
**CHOKES**  
CD RELEASE  
ALL AGES  
w/ Layaway Plan  
Hoppers / 50 Cents

**WED. DEC. 31**  
**NEW YEAR'S F\*CKIN' EVE**  
**PERCEPTUAL DISTORTION**  
FAREWELL SHOW  
WITH GUESTS LIQUID

OPEN WED-SAT FROM 3 PM

**THURSDAY: METAL (NO COVER)**

**LIVE MUSIC WED., FRI., SAT.**

**AREA 51**  
11725B JASPER AVE.  
413-0147

## Night Clubbing

(Entrance cost FREE • VUE PAPA 426-2889 • Deadline 3:00 pm Friday)

### ALTERNATIVE

#### AREA 51

11725b Jasper Ave,  
413-0147

every WED: Extreme Metal  
every THU: Orgasmatron-Underground Metal  
every FRI: Matt Playing Grind, Death, Hardcore, Punk...Old and New  
every SAT: Live  
every SUN: All Ages Live  
FRI 19: Broken Nose, Lure, Drone  
SUN 21: Choke-CD Release, Layaway Plan, Hoppers, 50 Cents - all ages  
WED 31: Perceptual Distortion-Farewell Show, Liquid

#### ARTS BABES

10440-84 Avenue,  
439-3729

WED 31: the Smalls, L.A.M.S., Old Reliable, Drool, Las Vegas Crypt Keepers

#### THE CORE

10145-104 Street, 420-6811

every FRI-SAT: Deep Sky, DJ Dragon, DJ Spider

#### GASOLINE ALLEY

10993-124 Street,  
448-0181

SUN 20: Piano Bar with Just Mickey

#### K20 LIQUID BAR

10044-82 Avenue,  
433-5794

every THU: Alternative of the Ages with DJ Schizo  
every FRI-SAT: Lagerpaloosa with Grandmaster Whitey

#### KING'S HORSE PUB

4211-106 Street,  
988-8881

every FRI-SAT: New & Classic Alternative with DJ Trigger

#### LOLA'S

8230-103 Street, 436-4793

every THU: New York Groove

#### LUSH

10030A-102 Street, 424-2851

every TUE: Hot-New Indie & Alt Rock with DJ Pepper  
every WED: Bronx Night-Retrobution with DJ Hurricane  
every THU: Mad Cow-British Music with DJ Jesse  
every FRI: Alternative to What?  
every SAT: Groovy Train

#### MANIFESTO

10043-102 Street,  
423-7901

SAT 20: southern acid, the natio octet, adam n steve, optic intrusions by film. Urban

#### MICKY FINN'S

2 Fir, 10511A-82 Avenue,  
439-9852

every SUN: Open Stage Hosted by Everett LaRoi  
WED 31: Mollys Reach

#### NEW CITY LIKWID LOUNGE

10161-112 Street,  
413-4578

every MON: DJ Chris "Weirdo" Johnson  
every TUE: DJ Goodtimes  
every WED: DJ Split Milk-Trip-hop, Hip-hop, Ambient  
every THU: DJ Orange County Keith and the Ski Man  
every FRI-SAT: DJ Goodtimes

### REBAR

10551-82 Avenue,  
433-3600

every SUN: DJ Big DaDa  
every MON: Delicious DJ Brian  
every TUE: Downstairs Punk, Ska & Rock 'n' Roll  
every WED: Aqua Rhythm with DJ Dragon & Dr Fong  
every THU: Upstairs-Classic 80's with Mikey Doing That Flashback Thing  
every THU: Downstairs-DJ Code Red  
every FRI-SAT: DJ Mikee  
FRI 13: Skavenjah, the Skeletones

### KEY

10030-102 Street, 423-7820

THU 18: the Maybellines, Shem, Robin Hunter  
FRI 19: Choke -CD Release Party  
SAT 20: Amber 416, Namesake  
FRI 26: Boxing Day Blowout  
WED 31: Resolution: 4 Rooms, 13 DJs

### THE ROOST

Private Member's Club, 10345-104 Street,  
426-3150

every MON: DJ Big Daddy  
every TUE: DJ Bryan the Big Mac  
every WED: DJ Latin Lover  
every THU: DJ Dark Daddy  
every FRI: Down-DJ Weena Love  
every FRI: Up-DJ Alvaro  
every SAT: Down-DJ James  
every SAT: Up-DJ Code Red  
every SUN: DJ Who the @#!? is Alice

### ROSE BOWL DOWNTOWN

10111-117 Street, 482-5152

every SUN: Jam

### WINTER'S ODE TO FUNK

Fulton Hall, 6115 Fulton Road, 413-6114

SAT 20: Welfare Tuxedo, Blue Locutus, Bell Jar Blues Band, Darksand, Knee Deep in Grass

### BLUES & ROOTS

#### BLUES ON WHYTE

10329-82 Avenue, 439-5058

every SAT aft: Blues Jam  
THU 18-SUN 21: Ray Lemelin  
MON 22-TUE 23: Tacoy Ride  
FRI 26-SUN 28: Tacoy Ride  
MON 29-WED 31: the Mere Mortals

#### BRANDI'S BLUES BAR

10375-59 Avenue, 988-5455

every FRI: Blues Jam Hosted by Soul 4 You  
every SAT: 90% Blues Jam Hosted by Harpdog Brown

#### BREWS & CUES

8130-103 Street, 433-2823

FRI 19: Harpdog Brown

#### CATALYST

10943-84 Avenue, 431-1750

THU 18-SAT 20: Christmas Carol Project

#### CHATEAU BEIRUT

12323 Stony Plain Road, 482-5442

every SAT: Live Middle Eastern Music

#### CLUB MACARENA

10816-95 Street, 425-5338

every SUN: Jammin' & Madness (Open Jam)

#### CORR'S

10407-82 Avenue,  
433-1969

every SUN: Acoustic Open Stage with José Oiseau  
THU 18: the Corb Lund Band, Trevor Rockwell

### CROWN & DEERY

13103 Fort Road, 478-2971

FRI 19-SAT 20: Lionel Rault

WED 31: Derek Sigurdson

FRI 2-SAT 3: Derek Sigurdson

### CROWN & TOWER

10 Belrose Drive, St Albert, 459-3393

FRI 19-SAT 20: Dwayne Cannan

### FESTIVAL PLACE

100 Festival Way, 449-FEST

SUN 21: Fireside AI

### GASOLINE ALLEY

10993-124 Street, 448-0181

every WED: Billy Joe Green and the Rough and Ready Blues Band

### GENERATIONS

6402-118 Avenue, 471-0887

SAT 20: the Shufflehounds

### GREAT CANADIAN BAGEL

8623-112 Street, 434-0460

every SUN: Acoustic Open Stage

### JESS LEE'S ON JASPER

Mayfair, 10815 Jasper Avenue, 414-6211

every MON-SAT: Live Blues/Country

every SUN aft: Blues/Country Jam Session

every SUN: Billy Joe Green and the Rough and Ready Blues Band

### LA HARAMA

10238-104 Street, 424-5939

FRI 19-SAT 20: America Rosa

FRI 26-SAT 27: Los Caminantes

WED 31: Los Caminantes

### LIBRARY LOUNGE

11113-87Avenue, 439-4981

every WED: Open Stage Hosted by Darcy

Greeves & Humberto Medeiros

every SUN: Open Stage Hosted by Lisa B & Humberto Medeiros

### MISTY ON WHYTE

104588-82 Avenue, 433-3512

every MON: Open Stage Hosted by Dan Francis

### REGAL'S CAFÉ & BAR

10025 Jasper Avenue, 990-1212

every THU: Blues Jam hosted by Rob & Pops

### SANIERA'S

10158-97 Avenue, River Valley, 421-8904

every WED: Folk Open Stage Hosted by Brian Gregg

### SHAW CONFERENCE CENTRE

9797 Jasper Avenue, 451-8000

WED 31: Wide Mouth Mason

### SIDETRACK CAFÉ

10333-112 Street, 421-1326

THU 18-FRI 19: Godiva

SAT 20: Kit Kat Club

MON 22: New Music Monday hosted by Bill Bourne

TUE 23: Jeff Hendrick Group

FRI 26: the Mike Plume Band, the Girl in the Band

SAT 27: Double Dancing Bandstand, Godiva, 100 Watt Bulb

MON 29: New Music Mondays hosted by Mike McDonald

TUE 30: Fat Tuesday

WED 31: New Year's Eve '98 Soiree with the Kit Kat Club

THU 1: Blue Locutus

FRI 2: Kissing Ophelia, Pal Joey

SAT 3: Seanchie

### UPTOWN FOLK CLUB

Parish Hall, 12116-102 Avenue, 462-0463

FRI 19: Caedmon, Confluence

### COUNTRY

#### 109 DISCOTHEQUE

10045-109 Street, 413-3476

every TUE: Country Karaoke & Country Dance

### DRAKE HOTEL

3945-118 Avenue, 479-3929

every FRI-SAT: Second Chance Band

every SUN aft: Second Chance Band

### JESS LEE'S ON JASPER

Mayfair, 10815 Jasper Avenue, 414-6211

every MON-SAT: Live Blues/Country

every SUN aft: Blues/Country Jam Session

### MUSTANG SALOON

16648-109 Avenue, 444-7474

every TUE: TV Vocal Search

THU 18-SUN 21: Prairie Knight

FRI 26-SUN 28: El Barsi

WED 31-SUN 4: Nadine & Raising Cain

### RANCHMAN'S

15540 Stony Plain Road, 483-1100

every MON-TUE: DJ Phil

### WILD WEST

12912-50 Street, 476-3388

every SAT aft: Jam

every TUE: Jam

THU 18-SAT 20: Gypsy & the Rose

MON 22-SAT 27: Phoenix

TUE 31-SAT 3: Tex Dalton

### POP & ROCK

#### BILLY BUDD'S

9839-63 Avenue, 438-1148

every THU: Open Stage

WED 31: Naked Ape

#### BLACK DOG

10425-82 Avenue, 439-1082

SAT 20aft: Bill Bourne

WED 31: the Velvet Olives

#### CLAREVIEW PUB

#104, 550 Victoria Trail, 414-1111

every SUN: Open Stage & Jam Hosted by the Edmonton Musician's Club

FRI 19-SAT 20: Typhoid Mary

FRI 26-SAT 27: Boxing Day Bash with DJ Fiore

#### DOG & DUCK PUB WEST

180 Mayfield Common, 489-7766

SAT 27: 2000

#### ELEPHANT & CASTLE

WEEM, 444-3555

FRI 19-SAT 20: Dave Hiebert

SAT 27: Dave Hiebert

TUE 30-WED 31: Dave Hiebert

#### GASOLINE ALLEY

10993-124 Street,  
448-0181

THU 18-FRI 19: Centrafuge

#### LION & CROW

367 St Albert Trail,  
460-8044

WED 31: Sweet Alibi

#### LIONS HEAD PUB

4440 Calgary Trail, 437-6010

THU 18-SAT 20: Doug Stroud

MON 28-SAT 3: Doug Stroud

#### MARIO'S

4990-92 Avenue, 466-8652

every THU-SAT: Rare Occasion

#### NEW CITY LIKWID LOUNGE

10161-112 Street, 413-4578

every WED: Open Stage Hosted by Doc Aroyo

#### RED'S

WEHM, 481-4420

every SAT: Red's Rebels

TUE 23: Beatlemania

SUN 28: 100 Watt Bulb

#### ROCK CENTRAL STATION

Kingsway Inn, 10812 Kingsway Ave,  
479-4266

every SUN: Jam Night

**CHIX DIGGIT!**

**NEW YEARS EVE BASH!**

**WITH THE BREWTA'S!**

**PLUS FREE BUFFET AND CHAMPAGNE FOR JUST \$25**

**NEW CITY LIKWID LOUNGE**

**10161 112 ST. PH. 413-4578 FOR INFO**



**BOSE & CROWN**  
Sheraton Grand, 428-7111  
every TUE-SAT: Lyle Hobbs

**SHERLOCK HOLMES ON WHITE**  
10341-82 Avenue, 433-9676  
every WED & SAT: Robert Walsh & Farley Scott

**ZAC'S PLACE**  
9855-76 Avenue, 439-1901  
every TUE & FRI: Open Jam

**JAZZ**  
**DENNY'S BAGELS CAMPUS**  
6009-112 Street, 413-4476  
every SAT the Mike Rud, Dan Skakun, Nick Riebek

**BLACK DOG**  
10425-82 Avenue, 439-1082  
every SUN: Root Down-Live Acid Jazz

**DEVIL'S**  
10507-82 Avenue, 437-7489  
every MON: Kiss & Tell-Live Acid Jazz Trio  
every THU: Acid Jazz  
WED 31: Dirty '30s Live Jazz

**FARGOS**  
10307-82 Avenue, 433-4526  
every WED: Live Jazz

**GOODFELLOWS**  
10160-100A Street, 428-8887  
every FRI-SAT: Brett Miles

**GRASSHABBA**  
125 Street & 102 Avenue, 447-2029  
FRI 19: Bounce

**LA RONDE**  
Crown Plaza, 10111 Bellamy Hill, 428-6611  
every THU-SAT: John Fisher & Johanna Silanpaa

**MIMA'S**  
10139-124 Street, 482-3531  
WED 31: Torben Holm Pedersen-Piano, Bryan Sim-Piano & Errol Zast-Bass

**SECOND CUP-449 ST**  
8902-149 St., 481-1238  
FRI 19: Janis Hurlburt

**SECOND CUP-JASPER AVE**  
11210 Jasper Ave., 421-4480  
SAT 20: Janis Hurlburt

**SONRENTINO'S**  
10162-100 Street, 424-7500  
FRI 19: Julie Mahendran & Peter Sciotte

**STATION X**  
7704-104 Street, 413-7064  
every WED: Stephen Hoy & Pazzport

**ZENAH'S ON 1ST**  
10117-101 Street, 425-6151  
FRI 19: Lina Allemanno Trio  
FRI 2: Kent Sangster Trio

**CLASSICAL**  
**CHAPTERS**  
3227 Calgary Trail, 431-9694  
FRI 19: Choir and Handbell Ensemble

**DA CAMERA SINGERS**  
Robertson-Vesley, 10209-123 St, 436-4160  
SAT 20: Festival of Lights

**EDMONTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**  
RUSH save 50%  
available for the ESO dress rehearsal,  
THU, Dec. 18, 7:30 p.m. on day of performance only.

**WINSPEAR CENTRE**  
9720-102 Avenue, 428-1414  
THU 1: Salute to Vienna

**LIVE COMEDY**  
**RED'S**  
WEM, 481-6420  
every FRI: Atomic Improv

**SIDETRACK CAFE**  
10333-112 Street, 421-1325  
every SUN: Variety Night

**YUK YUKS**  
WEM, 481-9926  
every TUES: Marc Savard-Hypnotist

**CLUB NIGHTS**  
**1001 NIGHTS**  
10018-105 Street, 448-1001  
every FRI-SAT: R&B, Hip Hop, Retro  
with DJ Tech

**DIMPERS**  
Kingsway Inn, 10812 Kingsway Ave, 479-4266  
every TUE-SAT: DJ Kelly

**CHASE**  
10060 Jasper Ave, Concourse Level, Scotia Place, 419-8362  
FRI 26: Boxing Day extravaganza. DJ Spark Live R&B and Rap, no minors

**CLUB LA**  
Leduc, 5705-50 Street, 986-4018  
every MON, WED-SAT: DJ Stretch

**DEVIL'S**  
10507-82 Avenue, 437-7489  
every WED: Martini 101  
every SUN: Service Industry Night

**GALLERY LOUNGE**  
Mayfield Inn, 16615-109 Avenue, 484-0821  
every THU-SAT: Dan Daniels plays sounds from the '50s, '60s, '70s

**GREENHOUSE**  
11103 Fox Road, 472-8999  
every WED: Chris Knight from Power 92  
every THU: Ladies Night

**JESS LEE'S ON JASPER**  
Mayfair, 10815 Jasper Avenue, 414-6211  
every FRI-SAT: Singles Night

**KAOS**  
8770-179 St, 2554 WEM, 486-KAOS  
no cover before 10:00pm  
every FRI: High Frequency  
every SAT: Total Kaos

**KEEGAN'S PUB**  
34 Avenue & 99 Street, 435-4065  
every SAT: Ladies Night

**KINGS KNIGHT PUB**  
9221-34 Avenue, 433-2599  
every THU: the Bear's Sled Dog Hosts  
Canadian Rocks Thursdays

**LUSH**  
10030A-102 Street, 424-2851  
every TUE: Hot-New Indie & Alt Rock  
with DJ Pepper

**every WED: Bronx Night-Retrobution**  
with DJ Hurricane

**every THU: Mad Cow-British Music with DJ Jesse**  
every FRI: Alternative to What?  
every SAT: Groovy Train

**NEW CITY LUNED LOUNGE**  
10161-112 Street, 413-4578  
every MON: DJ Chris "Weirdo" Johnson  
every TUE: DJ Goodtimes  
every WED: DJ Split Milk-Trip-hop, Hip-hop, Ambient  
every THU: DJ Orange County Keith and the Ski Man  
every FRI-SAT: DJ Goodtimes

**RED'S**  
WEM, 481-6420  
every SUN-FRI: Kenny K's Sounds  
WED 31: New Year's Eve Mega Bash

**ROCK CENTRAL STATION**  
Kingsway Inn, 10812 Kingsway Ave, 479-4266  
every SUN: Jam Night

**THE ROOST**  
Private Member's Club, 10345-104 St, 426-3150  
every MON: DJ Big Daddy  
every TUE: DJ Bryan the Big Mac  
every WED: DJ Latin Lover  
every THU: DJ Dark Daddy  
every FRI: Down-DJ Weena Love  
every FRI: Up-DJ Alvaro  
every SAT: Down-DJ James  
every SAT: Up-DJ Code Red  
every SUN: DJ Who the @#!? is Alice

**SHAKESPEAR'S**  
10805-105 Avenue, 420-1679  
every FRI-SAT: House DJ

**SPORTSMAN'S CLUB**  
5706-75 Street, 413-8333  
every Night: Dancing with DJ G

**WILD WEST**  
12912-50 Street, 476-3388  
every THU: Free Dancing Lessons

**SHOWBARS**  
**109 DISCOTHEQUE**  
10045-109 Street, 413-3476  
every SUN: Talent Show/Punk, 8 pm  
every MON: DJ Jam, Open Booth, 8 pm  
every TUE: Karaoke/Gothic, 8 pm  
every WED: Acid Jazz, 4 pm  
every THU: Bingo, Male Stripper, 4 pm  
every FRI: Show Early, 4 pm  
every SAT: Visual Dance Party, 4 pm

**WINTER'S ODE TO FUNK—ALL AGES GIG**  
Fulton Place, 6115 Fulton Road, 413-6114  
Featuring Welfare Tuxedo, Blue Locutus, Bell Jar Blues Band, Darksand, Knee Deep in Grass  
Time: doors 4pm, show 5pm  
Tix: advance \$6, at the door \$7

**MON DECEMBER 22**  
**MONDAY MOVIE MADNESS**  
Café Mosaics, 10844-82 Avenue, 433-9702  
Featuring a screening of The Grinch and all-you-can-eat perogies  
Time: dinner 6pm, movie 8pm; Cost: \$6

**WED DECEMBER 24**  
**BEATLEMANIA!**  
Reds, West Edmonton Mall, 481-6430  
Go ga-ga over these mop-top impersonators  
Time: doors 8pm, show 9:30pm  
Admission is free

**THU DECEMBER 25**  
**MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM THE STUFF AT VUE!**  
IF YOU'RE NOT CELEBRATING XMAS ALL THE HOT NEW FILMS OPEN TODAY. CHECK OUR MOVIE LISTINGS.

**WED DECEMBER 31**  
**HAPPY NEW YEAR! FOR THE HOTTEST NEW YEAR'S PARTIES CHECK OUT OUR ENTERTAINMENT LISTINGS.**

# Highlights

Listings are FREE • VUE Fax: 426-2889 • Deadline 3:00 pm Friday

THU DECEMBER 18

**THE FINE ART OF SCHMOOZY**  
Latitude 53, 10137-104 Street, 423-5551  
Open studio, art auction and shindig shaker  
Time: 7pm; Admission is free

**MERRY KISSMAS!**  
Lola's, 8230-103 Street, 436-4793  
An evening of Fashion with DJ Dragon  
Time: 9pm

**WORLD'S BEST COMMERCIALS 1997**  
RUSH save 50%  
available on day of performance only.  
Garneau Theatre, 8712-109 Street, 488-0527

Special premiere with all proceeds going to the Food Bank  
• Time: 7pm; Tix: \$5

FRI DECEMBER 19

**CHOKE CD RELEASE PARTY**  
Rev Cabaret, 10030-102 Street, 423-7820  
Edmonton punkers  
Time: 9pm  
Tix: \$6 or \$5 with a Food Bank donation

**SAT DECEMBER 20**  
**CHRISTMAS CAROL PROJECT**  
RUSH save 50%  
available on day of performance only.  
Catalyst Theatre, 8529-103 Street, 431-1750

Featuring Bill Bourne, Kevin Cook, Tom Roschkov, Terry Morrison, Al Brant, Dale Ladouceur and Maria Dunn  
Time: 2pm & 8pm

**EXPERIMENTAL AUDIO ART**  
Manifesto, 10043-102 Street, 423-7901  
Featuring -outhern acifct, the natioz octet, adam n steve and optic intrusions by film Urban  
Time: 9pm; Tix: \$5

109 disco 103st & jasper ave 413 disco doors @ 6 pm

new years 1928

OPEN CHRISTMAS DAY 8 PM-3 AM

**MICKEY FINN'S**  
taphouse

## NEW YEAR'S EVE MOLLYS REACH

COME BY THE BAR FOR TICKET INFORMATION

**MOLSON MONDAY**  
Pints: \$3.00  
"Big Wave": \$4.80

**CUERVO ESPECIAL TEQUILA TUESDAY**  
Shots: \$2.70  
Cocktails: \$3.20  
Corona \$3.00  
Sol: (500 ml) \$4.25

**BIG ROCK WEDNESDAY**  
Pints: \$3.00  
Jugs: \$9.00  
20¢ Wings

**'GET BITTEN' THURSDAY**  
Flanagan's \$3.00 Pints  
\$9.00 Pitchers

**FRIDAY**  
Shooter Specials All Day

**SUNDAY**  
Import Draft & Bottles On Special

**MICKEY FINN'S**  
taphouse

**Mickey Finn's Taphouse**  
Open Daily  
3PM - 3AM  
10511 - 82 AVENUE



# E-townline

What's Really Going On Out There

Listings are FREE • 700-516-8266 • Deadline 3:00 pm Friday

## ART GALLERIES SHOWS OPENING/EVENTS/HAPPENINGS

### THE CHURCH OF SCIENTOLOGY

10206-106 St., 425-3662  
 XMAS ARTISTS' NIGHT: Musical performances, art displays, tree-decorating, crafts. Fri 19, 7 PM.

### CLEA'S BOOKSHOP

11217 Jasper Ave., 453-2663  
 Featuring the work of Derrick Lipinski.

### EDMONTON ART GALLERY

2 Sir Winston Churchill Sq., 422-6223  
 GUIDO RENT'S JUPITER AND EUROPA & THE POWER OF MYTHOLOGY: ART IN COUNTER REFORMATION EUROPE: The painting Jupiter and Europa by Guido Reni (Italy) as well as paintings by his contemporaries including Anthony Van Dyck and Peter Paul Rubens (Flanders), Francisco Zurbarán (Spain) and Daniele Crespi (Italy). Dec 20-Feb. 15.

### LATITUDE 53

10137-104 St., 423-3353  
 THE FINE ART OF SCHMOOZY: Open Studio, Silent Art Auction and party—shining & shaker. THU Dec 18, 7 PM.

### OLD STRATHCONA ARTS BARS

83 Ave., 103 St.  
 WORK AND LIFE OF PEOPLE LIVING IN POVERTY: New Democrat MLA Raj Pannu, Sponsors Innovative are exhibit. Art and social justice is mixed to highlight poverty in Edmonton and recognize the contribution people living in poverty can make. Rev. Bill Phillips, and Jan Ash Phillips are guest speakers, opening night, THU, Dec 18, 6:30 PM.

### WEST END

12308 Jasper Ave., 488-4892  
 Work by our ceramic artists: Elaine Brewer-Wilkie, Dori & Nana and Katherine McKiss. Until Dec. 19.

### ART GALLERIES

ALBERTA CRAFT COUNCIL GALLERY  
 10106-124 St., 488-6611, 488-5900  
 A HOLIDAY CELEBRATION OF CRAFT: Celebrating the multicultural nature of the holiday season in Canada we will be displaying craft created by over 200 craft producers. Until Jan. 31.

### ART GALLERY

215-6 Carnegie Dr., Campbell Business Park, St. Albert, 419-2676, http://www.computartab.ca/bosinal/arden.htm  
 CARTOON EXHIBITION: by Michael V. Tkaczuk. ANGELO MARINO L.E.: Sports figures, prints.

### ARTISTICALLY SPEAKING STUDIO GALLERY & SCHOOL

Callinwood Sq., 6717-177 St., 487-6559  
 Paintings and sculptures by Jean Birnie.

### JAN STREET GALLERY

613 4th Street, Sherwood Park, 467-7356.

### OUT OF THE ATTIC: Featuring works by Margaret Klappstein.

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### JAN STREET GALLERY

613 4th Street, Sherwood Park, 467-7356.

### BEARCLAW GALLERY

10403-124 Street, 482-1204  
 Featuring birchbark paintings by Ojibwa artist Roy Thomas. Also small acrylics by David Morrisseau.

### BENNY'S BAGELS

10460 Whyte Ave., 414-0007  
 Every month Benny's showcases a different featured artist: Jean Finch. Until Dec. 31.

### BUGERA/KMEY

12310 Jasper Ave., 482-2854  
 Gallery artists, new work large and small including Jeff Burgess, Rod Charlesworth, Peter Oscon, Darlene Hay, Jerry Heine, Chris Judge, Marie Lannoo, Andre Peterson, Ernestine Tahedi, Bev Tesh and Margaret Vanderhaeghe.

### CITY HALL

Kids in the Hall Bistro, 1, Sir Winston Churchill Sq.  
 Student art, paintings and collages by students who attended the art camp at the Bennett Centre last August. Until Jan. 7.

### EDMONTON ART GALLERY

2 Sir Winston Churchill Sq., 422-6223  
 ALISON WILKING: TERRITORIES: Even Drawings, beautiful sculptural objects by London-based artist Alison Wilking. Co-produced by the EAG and the Art Gallery of York University, North York. Guest Curator: Renee Baert. Until Jan. 18.

### REAL OBJECTS: Contemporary Alberta artists, unifying issues of space, shape, materials and surface are revealed.

Organized by the EAG for the Alberta Foundation for the Arts. Travelling Exhibition Programme. Curator: Denis Gaudier. Until Jan. 18.

### CELEBRATING A LEGACY—25 YEARS OF THE ALBERTA FOUNDATION FOR THE ARTS: A survey of the range of media and practices of both well-established and little known Alberta artists. Drawn from the AFA collection by the EAG. Curator: Denis Gaudier. Until Jan. 13.

### THE POOLE FOUNDATION GIFT: Permanent Collection Exhibition.

CHILDREN'S GALLERY: T. DEANS DUCKY? THE STORY ON STILL LIFE: Things that kids can use to explore and create still life. Until Jan. 4.

### ELECTRUM DESIGN STUDIO

12419 Stony Plain Road, 482-1402  
 GAEA'S HAVENS - KUKUNIKI SERIES: Drawings by Ron Wigglesworth. IF I HAD WINGS: New Ceramics by Anne Handley. Until Dec. 23.

### EDMONTON CENTRE GALLERY

8303-112 St., 492-3034  
 Ceramics by Noboru Kubo. Until Jan. 20.

### FAB GALLERY

U of A, 1-1 Fine Arts Bldg, 112 St. 89 Ave., 492-5081  
 TWO VOICES ECHO: Jeffery Kukulakozay - Kam (MFA Painting). Graduating exhibition. Until Dec. 21.

### THE FRONT

12312 Jasper Ave., 488-2952  
 THE CHRISTMAS SHOW: New paintings, sculptures, ceramics and glass by Alberta Artists. Thru Dec.

### THE FRINGE GALLERY

8047, 10518 Whyte Ave., 432-0240  
 CORNELIA'S ARC: Mixed media installation, taxidermy forms and animal skulls, by Cornelia Ostrovitz. Until Dec. 31.

### GALLERY OF JONNE

12022A Hwy 16, Spruce Grove, 962-9505  
 Group exhibition, gallery artists.

### GALNIE WOLSTEN

http://www.wolstenart.ca  
 Exhibits on the Internet: World Wide Web.

### HEARTWOOD HOUSE GALLERY

3rd Floor, 10215-112 St., 426-4180  
 EDMONTON 2000: Salon expositiva presented by F.O.P. Collective. '01 Dec. 31.

### INDIGO PRINT AND PAPERWORKS

12214 Jasper Ave., 452-2208  
 4TH ANNUAL XMAS CARDS SHOW: Handmade cards. Until Xmas.

### KAHANA GALLERY I

7510-82 Ave., 944-9497  
 New works by Wei T. Wong, Meca Ranger, Willie Wong and Helena Ball.

### KAHANA GALLERY II

9939-170 St., 413-8362  
 Christmas show of photographs by The Group of Seven.

### PIANFESTO—CULTURE COUNTER

10043-102 St., 423-7901  
 FULL EXPOSURE: New drawings, Kris van Eyk and E. Ross Bradley. Until Jan. 4, 1998.

### MCQUEEN GALLERY

U of A Hospital, 8440-112 St., 492-4211  
 WOODWORKS—TEN EDMONTON SCULPTORS: Sculptures in wood by Ted Trusz, Robert Iverson, Bryce O'Neck, Danek Modzinski, Tommie Galie, Darrell Colyer, Larry Andreoli, Michael Mott, Ewert Hall and Sandra Bromley. '01 Dec. 31.

### MISERICORDIA HEALTH CENTRE

16940-87 Ave., 484-8811, ext 6475  
 NW Corridor, Main Floor

### JO SOMETHING: Work by Barbara Art Club. Until Jan. 7.

### Daywood Corridor

EDMONTON ART: by Robert Bailey. RECENT WORKS: by Robert Bailey. Until Jan. 12.

### OFFERTSHAUSER

5411-51 St. Stony Plain, 963-2777  
 Steve Mits, Judy Hamilton, Paintings; Tim & Cheryl Jensen, Bill Bisset, Fania Bisset, Susan Glick, Devinian Bosonic, Gardens Crafters Association, Mixed Media. Until Dec. 23.

### ORIGINAL ART GALLERY

22 Sir Winston Churchill Ave., St. Albert, 460-4124  
 WINTER IN ALBERTA: All Member show, St. Albert Painters' Guild. Until Jan. 3.

### Gallery Restaurant

Simon Wong, watercolor on rice paper. Until Jan. 4.

### PLANT IN CRYSTAL CAFE

101, 10442-82 Ave., 433-9730, http://www.computartab.ca/bosina  
 Art Exhibition, works by Michael V. Tkaczuk.

### PROFILES GALLERY

110 Grandin Park Plaza, 22 Sir Winston Churchill Ave., St. Albert, 460-4310  
 PRESENCE: St. Albert Visual Arts Council Holiday Exhibition. Until Dec. 20.

### PROFILES YOUTH GALLERY

Arden Theatre, St. Albert Place, 5 St. Anne St. St. Albert  
 Preschoolers exhibit.

### BOWLES AND COMPANY LTD.

Coopers & Lybrand Tower, 18 R. 10130-103 St., 426-4055  
 7TH ANNUAL CANADIAN GLASS SHOW: Featuring the artworks of 68 Canadian glass artists. Until Dec. 23.

Coopers & Lybrand Tower, Mezz. Level, 10130-103 St., 426-4055  
 Works by Greg Swinson, Angela Grootelaar and Elaine Tweedy, and Fiona Porwood. A wide selection of artwork for corporate gifts.

Oxford Tower, 10235-101 St.  
 Acrylics by John Freeman.

Westin Hotel, The Pradera, 10135-100 St.  
 Pastel paintings by Audrey Plannmuller.

### SCOTT GALLERY

10411-124 St., 488-3619  
 THE CHRISTMAS SHOW: Featuring stone sculptures by Cathryn Jenkins, and paintings by Katherine Merilios; also works by Doris Zaharichuk, Vladimir Horik, Barbara Atkins and W.J. Phillips. Until Dec. 20.

### SNAP PAINT GALLERY

10137-104, back of Latitude 53, 423-1492  
 FILTERING EYE: LIQUID SUSPENSION—SCREENS, LINES AND DOTS: New work by David Armstrong. Until Jan. 3.

### SOCIÉTÉ FRANCOPHONE DU CENTRE D'ARTS VISUELS DE L'ALBERTA

20, 8571 rue Marie-Anne-Gaboury (91 St.), 461-3427  
 Francophone artists and artisans works.

### SPECIAL T-GALLERY

284 Saddleback Rd., 437-1912  
 MIXED PALETTE: Group exhibition, sale of works by members of the Federation of Canadian Artists, Edmonton.

### STRATHCONA PLACE ART GALLERY

10831 University Ave., 443-5807  
 LANDSCAPES OF THE MIND: A new and unusual exhibit by Colin Spencer.

Landscape paintings, drawings, and collages a third dimension will be developed for the viewer to observe.

### TAP HUNDGOS GALLERY

139-15333 Castle Downs Rd., Lake Beauvais Rd., 413-0147  
 Featuring Song Birds by Gina Christofferson and water-colors by Jim Sha.

### VANDERLEILE

10444-134 St., 452-0286  
 Group show of gallery artists: paintings by David Alexander, Gregory Harty, Collette Nelson, Jonathan Forrest, Greg Edmonson, David Cantine; sculpture by Isla Burns and Simon Black. Until Dec. 31.

### CRAFT SHOWS

UCWLC ARTS AND CRAFTS MUSEUM  
 10825-97 St. St. Joseph's Cathedral.  
 Focus on the Ukrainian Settlement in Western Canada. Ukrainian Catholic women's League of Canada.

### DISPLAYS/MUSEUMS

ALBERTA AVIATION MUSEUM  
 11410 Kingsway Ave., 453-1078  
 Aircraft on display and under restoration. Civilian and military aviation history.

### ALBERTA RAILWAY MUSEUM

24215-34 St., 472-6229  
 Housed in the railway station built at St. Albert in 1909.

### BRUCE PEEBLES SPECIAL COLLECTIONS LIBRARY

87 Rutherford South, U of A, 492-7928  
 SHE WIELDS A PEN: An exhibition of women's literary history. Features books covering four centuries, a selection of artists' bookworks. Thru Dec.

### CANADA'S AVIATION HALL OF FAME

Reynolds Alberta Museum, Hwy 13, 361-1351  
 A tribute to the people who pioneered and advanced aviation in Canada. Open year-round.

### EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS ARCHIVES & MUSEUM

McKay Ave Sch., 10425-99 Ave., 422-1770  
 THE EDMONTON SCHOOLBOYS BAND (1036-1969)

### EDMONTON SPACE & SCIENCE CENTRE

451-3344  
 MAX Theatre: Margaret Ziesler/Sar Theatre Exhibit: Genetics live science demonstrations.

### JOHN JANZEN NATURE CENTRE

Fort Edmonton Park, Fox Dr., Whittemud Dr., 496-2939  
 BIRDS OF A FEATHER: From the Canadian Museum of Nature in Ottawa, an interactive exhibit. Until Jan. 4, 1998.

### JOHN WALTER MUSEUM

Kinsmen Park, 1901 House, Waterdale Hill, 496-2966  
 TIMBER TO TOWNSHIPS: John Walter and the lumber industry at the turn of the century.

THU 18-SAT 20; FRI 26-SUN 28: Candlelight Christmas, 7:30-9:30 PM.

### LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY INTERPRETIVE CENTRE

N. Legislature Grounds, 492-3982  
 Visit Alberta's premier architectural attraction.

### MUSÉE HERITAGE MUSEUM

St. Albert Place, 5 St. Anne St., St. Albert, 459-1528  
 KLONDIKE GOLD: Pictures, artifacts, models and maps from the Dawson City Museum and Historical Society. Until Jan. 15, 1998.

### MUTARI CONSERVATORY

9626-96A St., 496-8755  
 THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS: Ten different varieties of poinsettias. Crafts and activities for children each weekend, live entertainment. Until Jan. 4.

### OLD STRATHCONA MODEL AND TOY MUSEUM

8803-104 St., 433-4512, http://www.connectab.ca/~bobell/index.htm  
 Paper replicas of historic sites, ships, planes, trains, birds. Only open until Dec. 31.

### PROVINCIAL MUSEUM OF ALBERTA

12845-102 Ave., 453-9131  
 every SAT & SUN: Science Circle, For young families. Weekends, 1-4 PM, every SAT: (Starting Dec. 6) Aboriginal videos

### 2nd Night

SYNCRUDE CANADA ABORIGINAL PEOPLES GALLERY: Now open. Spans 11,000 years and 500 generations: people of the past and present, recordings, film, lights, artifacts and more.

### REYNOLDS-ALBERTA MUSEUM

Wetaskiwin, Highway 13, 1-800-661-4726.  
 Bicycles, cars, farm equipment...reflections of Alberta's transportation history. Open daily.

HIGH FLYERS: Women in Aviation. Until Jan. 4.

### RUTHERFORD HOUSE


11153 Saskatchewan Dr., 427-3995  
 Costumed interpreters recreate daily household activities. Open TUE-SUN.



### FLATLAND JAMBOREE

Jubilations, WEM, 111, Upper Level, 8770-179 St., 484-242.  
Ye Haw! Country music festivals have become one to the hottest events all over North America, whether at the foot of a mountain or in a beautiful valley or maybe even in the middle of a farmer's field! Until Feb. 1.

### HELLO DOLLY!

**RUSH**  save 50% available on day of performance only  
Citadel, Shorcor Theatre, 9828-101A Ave., 425-1820

By Michael Stewart. Music and Lyrics by Jerry Herman, based on The Matchmaker by Thornton Wilder. Musical. Dolly Levi, matchmaker extraordinaire, sets out to find husbands for three young women in New York City. Until Jan. 18.

### JOHNNY & POKI VARIETY HOUR

Varscona Theatre, 10329-83 Ave., 433-3399

Johnny Reno welcomes Poki Schvadtar back from London. Every SAT night @ 11 PM.

### A KVETCHMAS KAROL

Varscona Theatre, 10329-83 Ave., 433-3859

Presented by Generic Theatre. It's Seasonal Therapy. Already! Our hero heads off into the insanity of Christmas Eve—will he embrace the Christmas Spirit, or just get plastered?! Until Dec. 20.

### SALTY TOWERS

Celebration Dinner Theatre, Neighborhood Inn, 13103 Fort Rd., 448-9339

Don't just tempt your taste buds with this delectable tale of hotel happenings gone hysterically haywire, pull up a chair and dig in, to "Salty Towers"... The marvellous musical mania that will have you "checking in" for more. Until Jan. 11.

### SIR WALTER RALEIGH TRYETH PRETTY HARD

The Varscona Theatre, 10329-83 Ave., 433-3399

The hilarious and compelling story of the two men sent to guard Raleigh during his last hour in the Tower. Dec. 26-28.

### THEATRESPORTS

10329-83 Ave., 448-0695

Rapid Fire Theatre, TheatreSports' wacky cast will delight, enthrall and tickle all assembled, with an all improvised comedy show, every FRIs @ 11 PM.

### TUX TUX'S

Bourbon Street, WEM, 481-9857

Variety Night every Wed.

### VARIETY

#### CITY HALL

1, Sir Winston Churchill Square, 496-8266

THU 18: Holiday Magic - performances 11:30 am-1:15 pm.

#### HAWRELAK PARK

496-7275  
SUN 21: Free CrossCountry Ski Day, 1-4 PM

#### LESSARD LIBRARY

6104-172 Street, 496-1871  
every WED: Chess Night all ages, 7 PM  
every TUE: Magic, The Gathering, all ages, 7 PM

#### MULTICULTURAL HERITAGE CENTRE

Stony Plain, 963-2777  
"The Twelve Days of Christmas" Series of Christmas Brunch Buffets, until Dec. 21.

#### THE NODE ROOM

Circle Square Plaza, 118 Ave St. Albert Trail, 413-9982

Internet access. Multiplayer computer gaming.

#### RED'S

WEM, 481-6420  
every THU: Ladies Night

every FR: Atomic Improv

#### SIDETRACK CAFE

10333-112 Street, 421-1326

every SUN: Variety Night

#### VICTORIA GOLF COURSE

496-2966  
TUES & THUS: (Dec. 9-11) Cross-Country Ski Lessons, Beginner

TUES & THUS: (Dec. 11, 16, 18) Cross-country Ski Lessons, Skating Technique  
SAT 20: Drop in Cross-Country Ski Lessons

SAT 20-SUN 21: Cross-Country Ski Lessons, Skating technique  
SAT 27-SUN 28: Drop in Cross-Country Ski Lessons, Beginner II

#### VICTORIA PARK OVAL

River Rd., 116 Street, 493-000, 4223, 496-7275

Open for the skating season

#### WHITEMUD NATURE RESERVE

496-2966  
SAT 21: Winter Wonderland Walk, 2-4 PM

### WORKSHOPS

#### ALEXANDRA WRITER'S CENTRE SOCIETY

451-2043  
8 week poetry workshops, beginner or intermediate.

#### ARTISTICALLY SPEAKING STUDIO GALLERY & SCHOOL

Callingswood Sq. 6717-177 St., 487-6559

#### ASH STREET GALLERY

913 Ash Street, Sherwood Park, 998-3091, 449-0570

Beginner water color class, call for info.

### BEAD CLOSET

8118-103 St., 432-7547  
every Mon-Wed evening until Christmas, Jewellery making workshops.

### CITADEL THEATRE SCHOOL

9828-101A Ave., 426-4811  
Classes offered for kids and adults, winter semester Jan. 5-Mar. 26, 1998

### GRANT MACEWAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Jasper Place Campus, 497-4321

TUE Jan 27: Fine Art Program: Information session, tour, 7 PM.

### IDYLLWYDE LIBRARY

8310-88 Avenue, 496-1808

every second FRI FreeNet Instruction

### INDIGO

12214 Jasper Ave., 452-2208

THU 18: Noshi, 7-9 PM

SAT 20-SUN 21: Print on Handmade Paper

### THE MARKETPLACE ART SCHOOL

Westmount Shopping Centre, 474-9351

Individual and group classes in pencil, pen & ink, acrylic, oil, water color, clay and wood. Call Lorea or drop by.

### MERRYWOOD DANCE & CREATIVE ARTS ACADEMY

Romanian Hall, N. Edmonton, 456-8070

A new dance and arts school. *Krofting* for Kids, classes run while the adult classes run

### SNAP PRINT GALLERY

10137-104, back of Latitude 53, 423-1492

SNAP offers courses in a variety of Printmaking techniques: Photo-etching, Lithography, Silkscreen, Relief.

### SPRUCEWOOD LIBRARY

11555-95 Street, 496-7099

SAT 29: Woodworking for Adults, 1 PM.

### SUBTEXT

The Subversive Textile Association of Artists, 413-4284

Workshops on the 1st SUN each month

\*Pre-register @ 413-4284

### TOASTMASTERS

Heritage Rm, Main Fl., City Hall, 1, Sir Winston Churchill Sq., contact Carla 478-3384.

every WED: you're invited to a meeting (free), upward bound toastmasters, (to improve your listening, thinking, speaking skills), 7:30 PM.

### KIDS STUFF

#### CALDER LIBRARY

12522-132 Avenue, 496-7090

SAT 20: Winston Cheer, 2 PM

#### CAPILANO LIBRARY

Capilano Mall, 98 Avenue & 50 St., 496-1802

every TUE: Hey Diddle Diddle, 2 yrs

\*Pre-register

every THU: Pre-School Storytime, 3-5 yrs.

\*Pre-register

### CHAPTERS

West Side, 3227 Calgary Trail South, 431-9694

Daily story times in the "My Books" children's section, 10:45 AM; Weekends, 2:30 PM.

THU 27: Rubber Stamp Crafts, 2-3:30 PM;

NHL '98 Games Night, Children's Storytime with the Edmonton Oilers, 2-3:30 PM, 6-9 PM

### EDMONTON ART GALLERY

2 Sir Winston Churchill Square, 422-6223

CHILDREN'S GALLERY: DEAD DUCKS? THE STORY ON STILL LIFE. Come make a work of art. Until Jan. 4.

every SUN in Dec. 2-4 PM. FREE with regular admission.

SUN 21: Sculpt strange and wonderful ornaments for your tree.

SUN 28: Create your own hand-made "Thank You" notepaper.

### FORT EDMONTON PARK

496-8787

Until TUE 23: Christmas Reflections

SAT 21: Christmas Traditions: write to Santa, make an old-fashioned ornament, Magic Lantern Show.

### IDYLLWYDE LIBRARY

8310-88 Avenue, 496-1808

every TUE: Time for Two's, 10:15 AM, 2 yrs, \*Pre-register

### JASPER PLACE LIBRARY

9010-156 Street, 496-1810

every THU: (Jan. 7-Feb. 5) Pre-school storytime, 3-4:5 yrs, \*Pre-register

### JOHN WALKER MUSEUM

Kinsmen Park, 9100 Valderdale Hill, 496-4852

THU 18-SAT 20

FRI 26-SUN 28

SUN 30: Christmas Gifts, 1-4 PM.

### LONDONDERRY LIBRARY

Londonderry Mall, 496-1814

every TUES & WEDS: (Jan 13-Feb. 11) Drop-in Pre-School Storytime.

SAT 20: Winter Puppet Show, 2 PM.

### MILL WOODS LIBRARY

Mill Woods Town Centre, 2331-66 St., 496-1818

SAT 20: Ho! Ho! Ho! 2-3 PM \*Pre-register

### MUSSE HERITAGE MUSEUM

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SAT 20: A Winter Puppet Show, 2 PM, \*Pre-register

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7 Sir Winston Churchill Square, Library Theatre, 496-7000

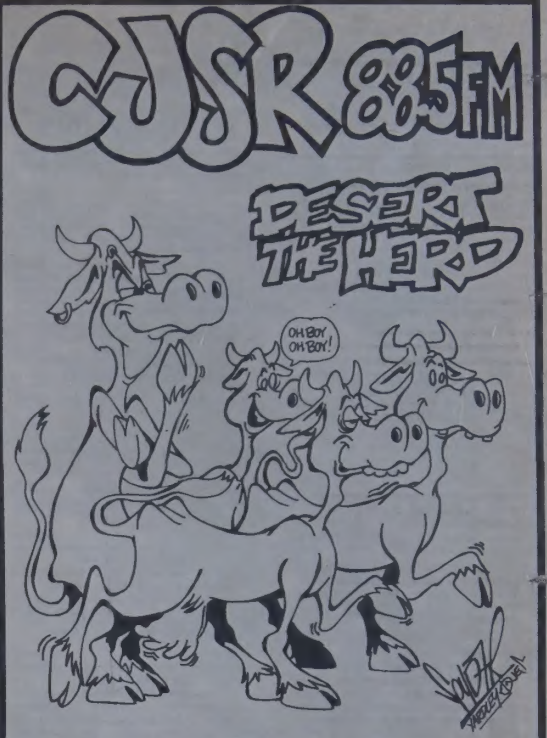
every MON: Drop-in Film Program, 10:30 AM, 3-5 yrs.

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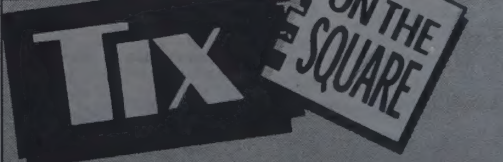


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# The real reason Mark Messier isn't going to Nagano

## CONSPIRACY THEORIES

BY JASON MARGOLIS

It's truly sad that St. Albert's gift to the world of professional sports will not be accompanying Team Canada to the Winter Olympics in Nagano, Japan, next year. Mark Messier is one of the greats of the sport, a multiple Stanley Cup winner and All-Star with world-class competition experience. Sure, sports reporters are eager to cite his elder-statesman status, but veterans like Wayne Gretzky and Steve Yzerman made the team.

The most popular conspiracy regarding Messier's omission is team Canada GM Bobby Clarke's supposed fear that Messier would dominate as the team captain. Clarke's preferred Team Canada captain is Eric Lindros, who is the captain of the Philadelphia Flyers, the team Clarke manages throughout the season. Clarke apparently wants Lindros to emerge as a strong leader on the ice, which would not happen with Messier present.

However, Team Canada also features—such Stanley Cup-winning team captains as Gretzky, Yzerman and Joe Sakic, who would also present threats to Lindros' command. Therefore, this

cannot be the true reason for Messier's non-inclusion

The real dope is that Clarke loves *The X-Files* (and if you read this column regularly, you probably assume that nearly everybody does—and you'd be correct). Clarke is concerned about Messier's resemblance to the morphing clone hunter who periodically shows up to threaten the free world

Not only is there a physical resemblance between the two, but there have been mysterious allusions to Messier in episodes that feature the clone hunter. The character's first appearance was outside a warehouse bearing an address on Edmonton Avenue or something like that—albeit this location was supposed to be on the American eastern seaboard. Edmonton was of course the city where Mark Messier made his first appearance in the NHL. Later episodes dealing with clones also included bizarre Alberta references such as the murder of a Telus employee by killer bees or the cryptic computer password "Vegreville." Alberta is Messier's home province—you make the call.

Clarke is no doubt plagued with apprehension that a clone-killing Messier might start attacking cute little Snowlets with an

icepick

Snowlets, for the uninitiated are the official mascots of Nagano's Winter Olympics. They are multicolored creatures that look like owls designed by some mad genius facing dismissal from Ikea. And even a busy hockey general manager like Clarke can recognize that Snowlets are cloned organisms. It would not bode well for Team Canada if their captain rendered the official Olympic mascots to juicy puddles of green goo—as a clone hunter is apt to do

However, there are two details that Bobby Clarke has failed to notice regarding Messier's similarity to the clone hunter, namely that the *X-Files* character has more hair than the hockey star—and he seems to prefer Old Dutch potato chips over Lay's. Clarke is doing a disservice to the world hockey community by overlooking these two obvious facts. Heck, I have a hockey card of Clarke in his youth where he looks strikingly like Dirk Diggler of *Boogie Nights* infamy. Does that similarity mean that Clarke should be banned from using small urinals and wearing tight pants?

No. Therefore, Messier should play with his homeboys in Japan. 'Nuff said.

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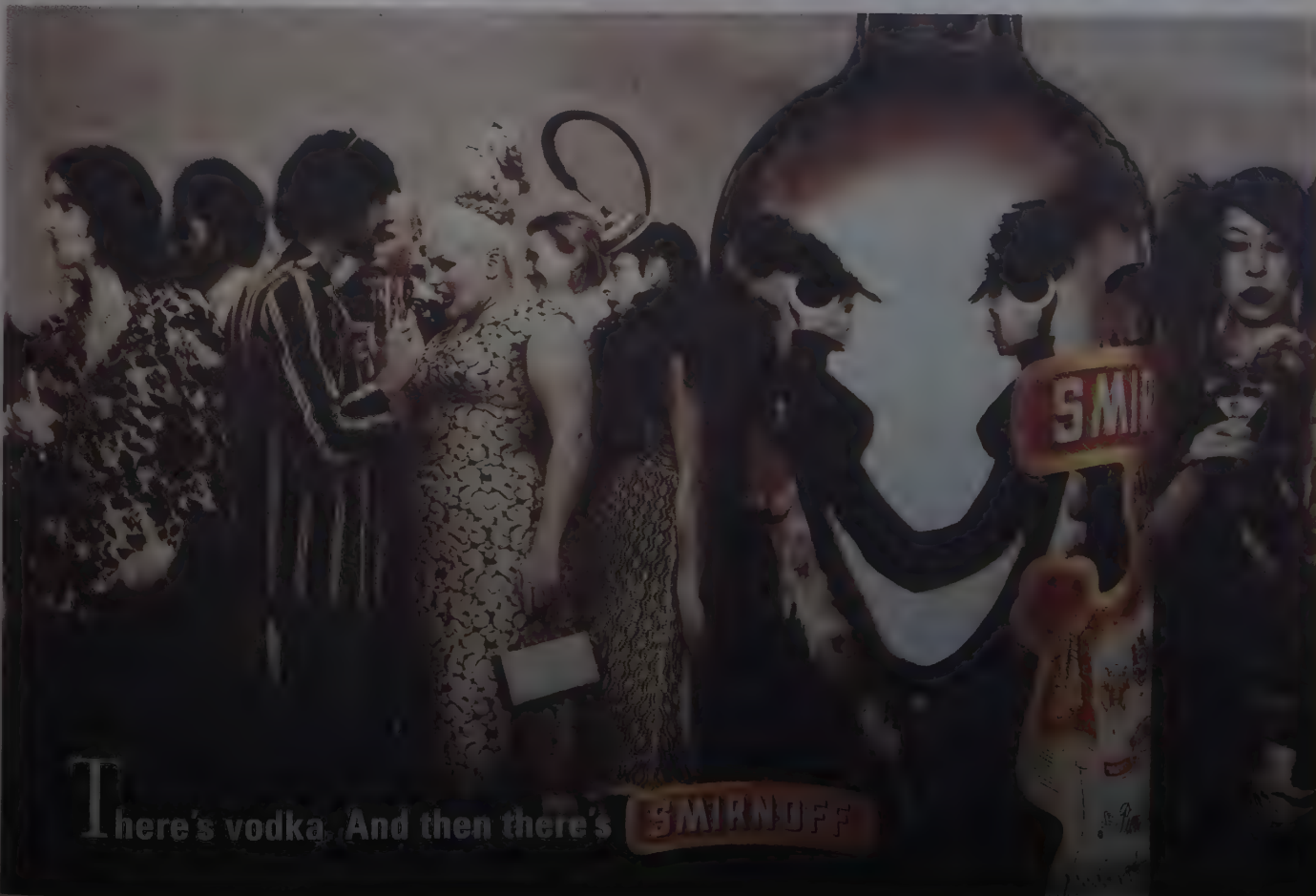


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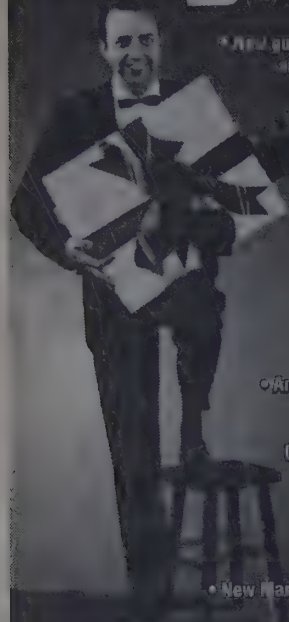
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# Fall Lines

BY HART GOLBECK AND ZEKE

Mammoth Mountain located just east of San Francisco has added three new high-speed quads. It now has 34 lifts, including five high-speed quads and two gondolas. Only two of the lifts are surface lifts. Talk about living up to your namesake.

Crazy Canuck Dave Irwin is hosting Masters Ski Camps again this year. Last year we watched as he put skiers up to 65 years old through the gates. Phone Sunshine Ski School at (403) 762-6560 and improve your skills.

R.K. Heli-Skiing at Panorama

Resort is now offering an "Elite" day. This is for experienced powder skiers who are conditioned to handle five descents instead of the usual daily three. If you're interested call them at 1-800-661-6060.

There's only one week left to get your Sunshine Village Card. For only \$70 you get two days free skiing and many more great discounts including reduced lift rates. Lake Louise has a similar card for \$49 including one free lift ticket and Marmot Basin's card is \$29 with no free ticket, but \$10 off a lift ticket every day of the season. You can pick them up at your local ski shop.

Rabbit Hill is hosting an Invitational Ski Race this weekend (Dec. 20-21). Juvenile skiers from Northern Alberta will be showing their stuff on a slalom course. Get out there, cheer them on and make a few turns yourself. Rabbit Hill has good snow conditions on runs which are groomed daily.

Austrian Hermann Maier was stripped of his World Cup giant slalom victory on Sunday. He had the fastest time in the event, but organizers disqualified him for removing his skis and displaying them short of a red line marked by race officials. What ever happened to "Let the best man win?"

## Zeke's Ski Tips

BY COUN "ZEKE THE SKI FREAK" CATHERA

### Short-listing the do's and don'ts of extreme skiing

This is the fourth and final (for now) tip on extreme skiing. We've covered attitude, gear, preparation and desire. This week I'll give you some basic rules that the extreme skier

should live by.

1. Get off your ass. You will never make it down a difficult pitch if your weight is back. As soon as it happens, fight with everything you've got to get back over your skis.

2. Ski to the edge of your ability. If you're feeling uncomfortable, that's good. You won't get better until you push the envelope.

3. It's good to be afraid. If you didn't have this God-given mental capability, you would already be dead. Rather than shying away from things that make you nervous, use the adrenaline to boost your focus and gas it.

4. Keeping motivated means never saying "good enough." If at first you don't succeed, yada yada yada. Don't whine. This leads us to number five.

5. Don't be a braggart. It just doesn't look good on you. It's OK to have an ego, just keep it to yourself. It's better to overhear someone in the lift line saying something like "did you see that dude in the yellow suit blow over that cornice last run?" This is especially rewarding if that dude was you.

6. Don't blame your downfalls on anything other than yourself. Equipment, conditions, position of Venus or whatever. Get over it. You're above that. You're extreme!

7. Remember common logic. Remember the four high school students that died at Fortress Mountain this season.

Keep em turnin',  
Zeke



Dear Anna,

I really want to try snowboarding, but I just don't want to look like I'm out of control and falling all over the place. Any tricks I can use so that I don't look so stupid when I'm learning?

Laura

Dear Laura,

Perhaps snowboarding is not for you. How you look is snowboarding's number one absolute concern (except you). Riding a snowboard is about how you feel and about how willing you are to push your comfort zone to reach a new level of ability. The fact that a person can't let their ego and fear take over is what makes a snowboarder. The concernment to find out that it takes to get started over and over and over again and not to give up is what makes a snowboarder. If the only way you have to learn is watching what you look like, instead of watching you to teach you the proper technique, you need more motivation (or maybe you should consider a sport that is more fun).

(Anonymous)

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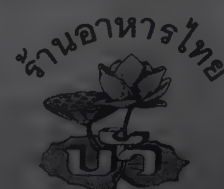
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# AREA

by Hart Golbeck

## Snow Valley—great local hill makes some turns

**C**onveniently located just off the Whitemud Freeway and easily accessed from 119 St. is the Snow Valley Ski Club. It's been operating for 36 years and is a local favorite for junior ski racing, snowboarding and recreational skiing.

Even without this year's cooperation from Mother Nature, Snow Valley's slopes are completely covered with the white stuff. It looks kind of magical with all the bare trees, grass and the gravel parking lot surrounding it. But if you're driving by and wondering what's on the hill, it's snow! Real snow!! Call it "man-made" but not "artificial" because the bottom line is it's water mist which, when frozen, turns into snow. It's great to ski on, especially when it's 6 C outside.

Snow Valley is the home of World Cup downhill racer and Olympic medallist Edi Podivinsky. There is a terrific race program there run by certified Alpine Coaches and a ski school for all levels and abilities of both skiers and boarders alike. Weekdays there are between 500 and 700 school kids riding the slopes daily and then the lights get turned on for night skiing.

Last week, Snow Valley played host to the Kubasa Cup. This was a local media challenge with participants hurtling down the hill on Solomon Snow Blades. A good time



Local boarder Andrew Jackson gets some air.

was had by all as the new kids on the block, the "A-Channel-A-Kickers" took the event. Meanwhile, there were skiers and boarders carving and kicking up a storm on the rest of the hill.

During the upcoming holidays, Snow Valley will have many activities at the hill including a visit from Santa Dec. 20th and sleigh rides on Boxing Day and New Year's Day.

Next time you want to get out and make a few turns or if you're

looking to join in some great winter activities, give Snow Valley a try. It's close and it's affordable.

### Ski Directory:

#### Snow Valley

Phone: (403) 434-3991

Vertical: 180m

Lifts: 1 Triple Chair, 2

Surface lifts

Lift tickets: Adult \$16,

Youth \$15, Junior \$13,

Senior \$6

## NEW YEAR'S EVE 1997

Just a reminder to take care tonight.

MOLSON

What Beer's All About



# SURFBOARD

Vue Weekly's Hot Sheet on Where to go on the 'Net

## • Anti-Pages

**The Democratic Republic of Space Girl Heroes**  
> [www.geocities.com/CollegeHill/Univ/9350/ty.htm](http://www.geocities.com/CollegeHill/Univ/9350/ty.htm) <  
• Sound clips and rants about the Space Girls.

**The About A Decency Gallery on the**

**World Wide Web**  
> [www.sir.net/~shadow/jdial](http://www.sir.net/~shadow/jdial) < • An anti-Boney the Purple Dinosaur page. Download games where you can blow the dinosaur out of the sky.

**Transmogacha**  
> [www.toymania.com/figures/transmogacha.html](http://www.toymania.com/figures/transmogacha.html) < • An anti-transmogacha (the virtual pet) page.

## • News & Media

**Canada NewsWire**

> [www.newswire.ca](http://www.newswire.ca) < • Up-to-the-minute press releases on subjects of Canadian interest.

**The Book of Zines**

> [www.zinebook.com](http://www.zinebook.com) < • This companion Web site to the book has links to E-zines covering any conceivable interest.

**The Onion**

> [www.theonion.com](http://www.theonion.com) < • The funniest made-up parody news on the Web. Example: US Senate to offer Platinum Plus citizenship!

## • Arts & Literature

**Project Gutenberg**

> [www.project.gutenberg.org](http://www.project.gutenberg.org) < • A HUGE collection of electronically stored books that can be downloaded free.

**Artwork**

> [www.artwork.rogers.com](http://www.artwork.rogers.com) < • A virtual tour of some of Canada's museums and art galleries.

**Playbill Online**

> [www.playbill.com](http://www.playbill.com) < • Listings and reviews of theatre around the world.

## • Sports

**Baking Online**

> [www.bakingonline.com](http://www.bakingonline.com) < • Comprehensive guide to the sweet science.

**ESPN Home Page**

> [www.espn.com](http://www.espn.com) < • All related scores and news (updated in real time).

**FIFA Home Page**

> [www.fifa.com](http://www.fifa.com) < • Official FIFA website. All the international football news and info.

## • Humour & Other Funny Stuff

> [www.shockbox.com/funny/funny.asp](http://www.shockbox.com/funny/funny.asp) < • Hallmark's archive of "too weird, too off-color" greeting card selections.

Hey, surfers! Fax or e-mail your category or website suggestions to Vue @ 426-2887 ~ e-mail: [office@vue.ab.ca](mailto:office@vue.ab.ca)

## • Reference

**The Urban Legends Reference Page**

> [www.scoopes.com](http://www.scoopes.com) < • Thousands of urban legends about Richard Gere and rodents, Disney and more.

**The Col. L. Fletcher Prouty Reference Site**

> [www.astrom.com/prouty/](http://www.astrom.com/prouty/) < • Reference to CIA jamaican and the CIA information.  
**Dub's UFO Research Information Clearinghouse**  
> [www.dubhouse.com/index.html](http://www.dubhouse.com/index.html) < • All the latest UFO sightings and theories.

## • Religion

**The Monastery of Christ in the Desert**

> [www.christdesert.org](http://www.christdesert.org) < • A group of Benedictine monks in Santa Fe, NM who know their way around a keyboard. A tour of the monastery, illustrated pages and much more.

**The Homepage of God**

> [www.netstore.de/~god](http://www.netstore.de/~god) < • The Supreme Being's home page. Confess your sins, download pictures of the Almighty's family or find out what really happened on the 7th day.

## • People

> [www.sinn.com/polina](http://www.sinn.com/polina) < • The official website of those who want to lose Leonard Polina. He is currently serving 2 life sentences for murder.

> [www.obscene.net/~pritch/chess.html](http://www.obscene.net/~pritch/chess.html) < • A hint's guide to the great Monty Python troupe member and the man behind Basil Fawlty.

> [web3.starwave.com/showbiz/](http://web3.starwave.com/showbiz/) < • The site of Mr. Showbiz. A comprehensive guide to celebs in both entertainment and sports.

## • Virtual Stuff

**Virtual Tin**

> [www.dopplertip.oniro.ca/~tin.html](http://www.dopplertip.oniro.ca/~tin.html) < • A sudden meeting with your boss? An important date? Download a virtual tin and loser point away.

**Virtual Pizza**

> [www2.pest.csuchen.edu/~pizza/pizzamob.html](http://www2.pest.csuchen.edu/~pizza/pizzamob.html) < • Order a virtual pizza with all the toppings you want—traditional or things like beetles, nois, green M&M's and firecrackers—and view it on screen or have it sent to your e-mail address.

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# Pricy computer gifts make perfect stocking stuffers

## Canopus graphics card is the Tickle Me Elmo of the season

### WHAT'S NEW

BY DARRIN ROBERTS

If you were smart enough, you went out early this year to buy yourself a brand-new Christmas stocking roughly twice the size of your old one. Throw out the old one and hang the new one: You will need the extra space for all the great new computer stuff that you will want Santa Claus to bring you.

If you were hoping for the hottest computer gift this year—the Canopus Pure 3D graphics enhancer card—then you will need connections to the big guy in the red suit to get it for you—it can't be found in the city. The Canopus graphics card, roughly \$275, is so hot right now that it is only available through mail order, with a delivery date well into January. This little piece of graphical wizardry improves the colors and lighting for games. It has a new filtration system that decreases the pixelation that occurs when your character runs closer to a wall or any other large object.

The hot new games, most of which are compatible with the new Canopus Pure 3D card, are all (thankfully) easier to find in the city. The biggest one of the year is certainly *Quake II*. With more storylines, improved graphics and new monsters, it is quickly becoming as popular as the first *Quake*. Celebrate Christmas day and the Christmas spirit by exploding enemy ogres!

Other new CD-ROM games proving to be hot commodities this year include *NHL '98*, *Riven*

*Mystery*, *Jedi Knight* and *Motor Racer*. Old but popular games like *Diablo* are still moving briskly from the shelves. For those of you who spend time online playing role-playing games, there is the new *Ultima Online*. Buy this one quick or wait until the new year. A few stores have already run out of stock.

Computer scanners are also breaking more and more into the mainstream market. It seems everyone wants to be able to scan their favorite pictures to save onto disk or to send over the Internet. There is no short-

age of these around town, if you have a few hundred dollars to spend.

If your stocking is really big, and you have been extra nice this year, then maybe you will get a brand new computer system. The Compaq Presario—a mere \$2,000-\$3,000, would fit nicely into any stocking. If you happened to be a saint this year, then maybe you will awake to find the top-of-the-line Pentium II 300 computer snuggled up next to your tree. With a base price of \$4,000, it would make the ideal gift—to receive.

# GAME BREAK

BY RICHARD PETERSON

The newest shooting game on the market for the Sony Playstation is from Namco, called: *Time Crisis*. What I really like about this game is that it comes packaged with a gun, so you get a good-quality gun controller for about \$10 when you buy this game. Of course, the gun wouldn't be worth squat if the game wasn't good. Luckily, it is.

In this game you play secret agent Richard (good name!) out to rescue the President's daughter Rachel by blowing away every enemy on the screen with your trusty handgun—the Guncon. The gun is light and fits comfortably in your hand and is easy to hook up to your system. The only drawback is if you are using an older TV with an RFU adapter you will have to buy an additional adapter to make the gun compatible with your system.

A simple storyline, as it should

be in a game of this type, plus decent graphics and non-repetitive backgrounds leave lots of room for the programmers to give you plenty of what you want in a shooting game: fast-paced and non-stop action. *Time Crisis* has exactly that. Two modes of play, a new scenario, hidden area and multiple endings tied into how well you score mean hours of enjoyment as you try to master this challenging shooter.

In the early levels, there are only a few enemies on the screen at a time, but once you have warmed up they start coming fast and furious. The more you play, the better you get, but you must remember to stay calm under fire. Don't waste a lot of time ducking, because it's not who shoots first, it's who gets shot first that counts. Plus, how well you shoot determines which of the multiple endings you get. Ready! Take aim! Fire!

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# OILERS WEEK



Wednesday (away)

New Jersey 4, Oil 2

Friday (away) Oil 3, Detroit 2

Saturday (away) Oil 4, St. Louis 1

Record: 11-16-7

Fourth, Pacific Division

This week, *Vue* press-box fixtures John Turner and Steven Sandoz yelled "Hallelujah!" as the Oilers play indicates the inconsistent team may have actually turned a corner. Which is a lot better than turning a trick or turning coat or listening to "Turn, Turn, Turn" on the radio.

**TOPIC:** Paul Kariya's big fat contract

Steve: I'll discuss the Oilers in a bit, but I've got to let off some steam about the two year, \$14 million deal Paul Kariya inked over the weekend, ending his holdout. In his first game back, he has a four-point night and helps the Ducks beat Washington 6-4. Kariya, not Eric Lindros, not Jaromir Jagr, is the best player in hockey. He'll be the key ingredient for the Canadian Olympic team, as he was missing from the World Cup squad that was beaten by the United States. But what will the Kariya deal do for the world of hockey? He signed a short-term deal so he could put himself back on the free-agent market in two years. At the rate hockey economics are mushrooming, Kariya's next contract should be worth, oh, about \$75 octillion per season. But Kariya has the Ducks over a barrel. They were depending on Teemu Selanne (who scores almost half the team's goals) far too much. With Kariya back, the Ducks now, once again, have the best line in hockey on the ice, and will go from pretender to contender awful quick.

John: I hate the topic of contracts. Paul Kariya exemplifies everything that's wrong with professional sports. He's left a bad taste in my mouth concerning athletes—and there's where he has a lot in common with Eric Lindros. He may be the best player in hockey right now but he's definitely not the classiest. I used to hope that guys like him and Lindros would finish their careers without ever winning the holy grail of hock-

ey, the Stanley Cup—and I thought that would be a fitting punishment for their greed. But the saddest thing is that these guys wouldn't care if they never won a championship. They have their million-dollar contracts and that's all that matters to them

**TOPIC:** Take that, you stinking Wings—again

Steve: Last week in this column, I got to share with readers my general disdain for the Detroit Red Wings hockey club. Now that the Oilers beat the Wings again (with Bob Essensa playing a superb role in net for the second time versus the team that cut him), this time in the scenic toxic dump they call home, it's proof of the talent the Oilers have on the roster—that this team is capable of passing the .500 mark and becoming one of the best in the West. What has coach Ron Low put in Mats Lindgren's Gatorade? He's on fire and has looked good on the powerplay. Low will have a hard time putting Jason Arnott back on the top powerplay unit when he comes back from his separated shoulder injury—because the extra-man unit hasn't played as well all season as they're playing right now. Detroit, like Dallas did in the playoffs last year, has got a disturbing dose of what the Oilers can do—and it couldn't happen to a nicer bunch of octopus-slaughtering, red-and-white wearing players who all have unpronounceable names ending with the letter "V." I hear that, after the Olympics, Brendan Shanahan will change his name to Sergei Shanahanov. Steve Yzerman doesn't have to change his name. Any time you get a "Y" and a "Z" next to each other in a word, it already looks ethnic enough.

John: Don't get me wrong, nobody's happier than I am about the Oilers beating the Wings two games in a row, but what is it with you Maple Leaf fans and using any excuse to knock the Red Wings? Here's a question for you. In the last 30 years, what have the Detroit Red Wings done that the Toronto Maple Leafs haven't? Answer: They've won a Stanley Cup. Ha! Ha! Funny, isn't it. Steve? Anyhoo. Six goals in six games. Is there a hotter player in the NHL right now than Mats Lindgren? (Maybe Ray Whitney. But the Oilers management doesn't want us talking about that, now, do they?). Funny thing is that at the beginning of the season there were rumors floating around that the Oilers were shopping around Lindgren in a package deal. Imagine if they'd gotten

rid of both Whitney and Lindgren and Lindgren started to play like this for some other team. Which brings us to the topic of a guy the Oilers should have dealt by now. The Oilers are winning hockey games against above-.500 teams and they're doing it without Arnott in the lineup. Coincidence? I think not. Now might be a good time to see if anyone's interested in making a trade

**TOPIC:** St. Louis sings the Blues

Steve: Not only do the Oilers knock off the Wings twice in seven days, they go into the Kiel Center and beat the Blues 4-1, following a 3-0 whitewash of St. Louis earlier this season. Curtis Joseph must love playing in net against his old team—even though his old boss, Mike Keenan, was run out of town. Keenan's now coaching in Vancouver—and it's one of those arrangements that can't help but make you laugh. Do the lackluster floaters like Alex Mogilny serve as a punishment for a coach that has serious ego problems? Or is the presence of Keenan too much for the likes of pluggers like Martin Gelinas and Trevor Linden, both of whom Keenan ripped and benched earlier this week? Sorry, I know I got off topic, but we haven't ripped Vancouver in a while and this column wouldn't be the same if we didn't give the business to those Birkenstock-wearing phony-Canadian ingrates in B.C. on a regular basis. Back to the Blues: here's a team that's unbeatable at home, except when Edmonton is in town. Essensa's performances in Detroit are a good kick in the ass for Joseph, who, despite the fact he is an Olympic goaltender, knows there's an understudy on the bench who can fill in quite nicely if he falters. Maybe we could play St. Louis and Detroit every game and trade in those klunkers with Anaheim, which the Oilers always lose and are about as exciting to watch as Olympic ballroom dancing.

John: Hey. I like Olympic ballroom... doah! I mean, yeah, those games against Anaheim are always boring to watch. Maybe the age of the St. Louis hockey team is starting to catch up with them. Or maybe the young Oilers have finally turned the corner and are going to give more teams than just the Blues and the Red Wings problems for the rest of this season. Whatever it is, it's been fun to cheer for a winning hockey team again this past week. Let's hope it lasts.

When we return in two weeks, Steve promises a special report from the Molson Centre and Maple Leaf Gardens. He's on a crack assignment with the Oilers on their next road trip—and thinks it's really cool that there's a rink in Canada named after beer.

## the REV

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19

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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20

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# Musicians gather for Cheviot protest

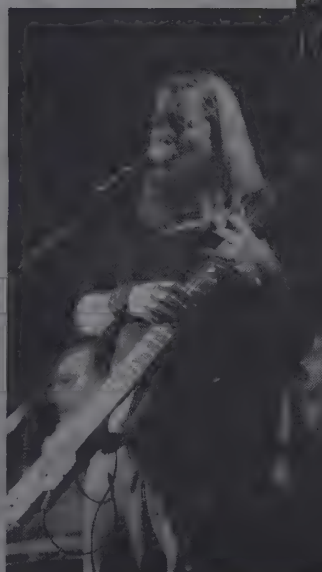


Last Thursday, many local musicians gathered at the Bonnie Doon Hall to sing, play and dance—the event was a fundraiser for environmental groups trying to put a stop to the controversial Cheviot open pit mine. The mine, which has been approved by the federal government, would border Jasper National Park and environmentalists feel it would threaten the fragile ecosystem of the area.

All photos by David Williamson



Members of The Smallboy Camp, a native dancing and rhythm ensemble, pounded the drums for the Cheviot cause



Painting Daisies brought their upbeat, electrified folk to the Bonnie Doon stage

Ex-Jr. Gone Wild frontman Mike McDonald showed off his acoustic ability.

Event organizer Dale Ladouceur was on the stage many times during the evening. This time, she displays her ability with the Chapman stick.



A member of the Smallboy troupe tries to soar like an eagle with his interpretive dance.





JANN ARDEN  
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ANDREA BOCELLI  
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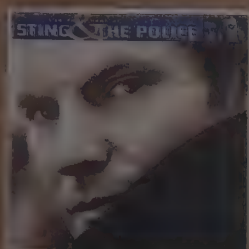
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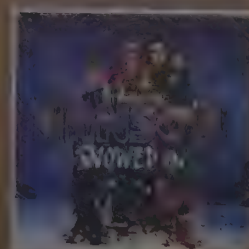
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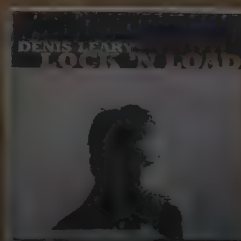
HANSON  
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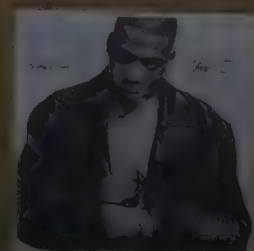
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#### BROUGHT TO YOU BY GARY MCGOWAN

It's a country Christmas at the Rev! Well, there won't be any Big Stetsons or Garth Brooks shirts on the premises (will there?) but you will hear a couple of Edmonton's finest nouveau country bands Thursday night. The Maybellines headline the show in the company of Shem. Until recently, Shem has been better known for the Brit-pop flavor of its music. A recent epiphany has moved its sound within hailing distance of Wilco and Thursday's Rev gig will be one of the city's first opportunities to sample the band's new sonic wares. An added bonus on the bill is guitarist Robin Hunter of the Imagineers. While that band is still winding its way through the recording of a new CD, Hunter will step

onto the Rev stage in solo mode. That should be a Christmas present in and of itself.

XXX

Area 51 will play host to three of Edmonton's newer rock groups Friday night. The retooled Broken Nose headline the show. The 'Nose now sports three ex-members of the Poobahs (guitarist Ryan Vestby, drummer Jase Smith and Scott, the bass player) along with Allan Gothjelsen, who was most recently the rhythm guitarist and singer in Drool. After a few more shakedown gigs like this Area 51 show, the lads plan on recording a demo CD early in the new year. Also on this bill (and also planning a record release in 1998) is Lure. In the company of Broken Nose, they've also experienced some change in personnel in the last few months. Singer Mike Karsten left the group and, rather than replace him, bassist Tyler Burrell has taken over the care and feeding of the vocal microphone. Kyle Dunn remains on guitar as does Derrick Schmul on drums. The good news for those that like to feel as well as hear their music is that Lure report it's now heavier than ever. Edmonton hardcore band Drone will open the evening.

XXX

Caedmon has a lot of different influences swirling through its music. The best description the band has been able to come up with is "folk fusion roots/world-music rhythms and percussion." Whew! Pair all that with some tasty original songs and you've got yourself a great evening of music at the Parish Hall Friday night. This is another presentation of the Uptown Folk Club, the little folk music society that is breathing new life into the "coffee house" concept that's been so crucial to the ongoing evolution of folk music over the years. Opening Friday's show is Confluence.

XXX

Rake will be at the New City Likwid Lounge Friday night. The Camrose lads picked up some very positive cross-country notices on their debut CD and they're already laying plans to record a follow-up in 1998. In fact, Friday's gig is sort of a preview show for some of the

new songs the band has tentatively slotted for that forthcoming disc. It's kind of like being allowed to open one present before Christmas morning.

XXX

Nobody said this music thing was easy. Amber 416 was carving a substantial reputation for itself on the Edmonton scene, when one of the members landed a radio announcing gig in Grande Prairie. Oops. Not only has that meant practice sessions are somewhat less frequent than they used to be, but it has been difficult to schedule gigs when one guy faces a five-hour drive to sound check. Fortunately, Christmas holidays have arrived so everyone in Amber 416 is in the same town for the next few weeks. That means the band will gig on Saturday night at the Rev in the company of Namesake. No doubt Amber 416 are hoping Santa creates a job opening at an Edmonton radio station for you-know-who this Christmas.

XXX

Blame El Niño for ruining a perfectly good gig title. The occasional showcase of local bands that runs at the Fulton Hall is scheduled for Saturday night. Organizers selected what would normally be a perfect umbrella title for the gig at this time of year—Winter's Ode to Funk. Oh well, at least the music will still be good. Five bands will take the stage through the course of the evening: Welfare Tuxedo, Blue Locutus, Bell Jar Blues Band, Darksand and Knee Deep in Grass.

XXX

It's been an amazing year for Wide Mouth Mason. Any band that moves from highly-touted independent to a major-label priority is capable of delivering an informed lecture on the true meaning of the term "eye of a hurricane." Fresh from a series of American tours this fall with acts like George Thorogood and Kenny Wayne Sheppard, Edmonton's adopted musical sons will help E-town ring in the new year by headlining the rock bash at the Shaw Conference Centre on New Year's Eve. Join them, hoist a glass and wish the trio all the best at turning Wide Mouth Mason in to a headlining act in America in 1998.

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## Gary McGowan's Profiles

**Name:** Liz Han-Andrew.

**Notoriety:** Keyboardist with Godiva, five good girlfriends playing the dance music people want to hear.

**Next gig:** Dec. 18-19 at the Sidetrack Café (10333-112 St.)

**Favorite flower:** Orchid.

**Favorite food:** Japanese.

**Favorite artist:** Prince, Stephen Sondheim, Debussy and Keith Jarrett.

**If you were an animal, what kind would you be?** A fish.

**What do you look for in a man:** Humor, intelligence and honesty... in that order.

**Age:** 28.



**Liz Han-Andrew.**

**Home:** Wherever there's a piano.

**Last accomplishment:** I'm a mom, I play in a band, I teach at Grant MacEwan College. Juggling all of that is my last accomplishment.

**Favorite Drink:** Double Screwdriver.

**Trait you most admire in another person:** Compassion.



## Chixdiggit! dashes through the snow Calgary rockers prepare for follow-up album

ROCK  
BY STEVEN  
SANDOR

PreVUE

**E**l Niño may be causing headaches for most Alberta ski buffs, as it has given the province unseasonably warm temperatures.

But the lack of snow won't stop Calgary rock quartet Chixdiggit! from taking their spot at the top of the mountain.

"We are the official band of snowboarding," laughs lead singer and guitarist K.J. Jansen from Whistler B.C. And why is Chixdiggit! the official band of snowboarders the world around? Simple. The band is in Whistler to play two shows sponsored by Trans-World Skateboards—in front of snowboard merchants and enthusiasts in town for a conference and to shred the snow. "It is so cool here. We're having a great time. People are buying us drinks. People are buying us cigars. It seems like the whole snowboarding industry is here and they're pretty pissed. I guess there's a controversy that the U.S. Ski Federation is going to pick the Olympic team even though they don't really know the sport. Everyone is talking about it."

"On top of that, some people are pissed because Animal, from *The Muppet Show*, is the official mascot of the snowboard team. I think that's cool. The guy who did Animal on the show is here and so is Frank Oz. Some people don't like Animal—not me. I've always been an Animal fan."

Other than being oracles about the Olympics' new sport, Jansen and his bandmates (bassist Michiel Eggermont, guitarist Mark O'Flaherty and new drummer Dave Alcock) are preparing songs for their upcoming album, a follow-up to '96's self-titled debut, which was the second-highest seller on the Sub-Pop label that year. But the Seattle-based label and the band didn't have a rocky marriage, so the band's new record will be put out on Honest Don's, a sub-label of So-Cal punk institution Fat Wreck Chords. The new album, which the band will record at Calgary's Sundae Sound with well-known Fat Wreck producer Ryan Greene, should be in your favorite record store by April. Of course, the band's reputation as a live act is solid—a night with Chixdiggit! is a rock 'n' roll party, where the kids hop to tracks like "Henry Rollins is No Fun," "Shadowy Bangers from a Shadowy Duplex" and "Hemp Hemp Hooray." Chixdiggit! is a band that realizes entertainment is the major part of its mandate—the quartet would rather rock than save the world.

But there have been changes in the band. Original drummer Jason Hirsch got married, went back to school and informed the other three members of the band that he could not continue with the rock lifestyle.

"There's no messy break-up story," says Jansen. "We're still good friends. Jason told us that he couldn't tour if he was going back to school. He's getting on with his life, which is really what the rest of us should be doing...but we'll keep on rocking."

instead."

The band's snowboarding conference show isn't even close to being the most unusual gig the band lined up. The band was contacted by a wealthy South Carolina couple to play their wedding.

"They sent us an offer and we thought 'are you serious?'" explains Jansen. "And then we saw the offer and thought 'OK, we'll do it.' But it is a wedding, so we'll probably dress up a little bit and we'll have to learn a few covers because we'll be playing a longer set."

Maybe even a version of "The Chicken Dance."

The band's also got a new website at [www.cadvision.com/chixd/](http://www.cadvision.com/chixd/) where fans can find pictures and news about the band, as well as Jansen's own advice column.

"The best advice I ever gave was this girl wanted to meet this guy," says Jansen. "And I told her if you want to get to know him, there's no better way than sleeping with all of his friends." (OK, that's a joke.)

With a new drummer, a new record and a new website, all the band needs is a new van or RV. Touring is tough on vehicles, and the group is in the market for a new set of wheels. All offers will be considered—just e-mail the band at its website.

### Chixdiggit!

New Year's Eve Party  
w/ The Brewtals  
New City Likwid Lounge  
Dec. 31

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# Da Camera Singers choose less-traveled musical route

## CHORAL

BY LOBBRAINI  
RESSLER

## PreVUE

There are times when a singer stands amidst a choir and takes part in a chord that resonates through him or her so completely that the feeling is almost sexual—or spiritual, depending on how you look at it. Choral music set to a religious text can evoke equally strong feelings of joy among listeners—even non-believers.

There aren't that many composers who can achieve those effects simultaneously. And really, there aren't that many classical composers today who care to do so. One who can and does is British Columbian Imant Raminish. His *Magnificat* is being performed by the Da Camera Singers in their Festival of Lights

Christmas concert this Saturday—and should be well worth a listen.

The Da Camera Singers are a "chamber" choir, meaning a small group of singers, who have been in existence since 1961. Conductor Mel Unger has been with the choir since 1981 and has the primary responsibility for choosing the music they perform at each concert.

"We think of ourselves as primarily a classical repertoire choir, which because we're chamber does mean we often do Baroque works and Classical works, although there's also 20th-century classical works, but most of the time we concentrate on the Classical repertoire. We even did the Canadian Country Music Awards when they were here in the city," says Unger.

"We look for interesting repertoire. I always think of planning a concert as being something like planning a meal—it's nice to have an appetizer, a main course and then something lighter for dessert. We stay away from really mainstream stuff. We're looking for something that's a little different, a little new, that would suit us and be of interest to an audience that maybe is getting tired of the standard stuff. This concert particularly features two works: the one by Raminish, who is probably the most

popular Canadian composer right now; and a work called *Winterfest* that I actually discovered on the Internet. I was looking for works for choir and brass. Capital Brass often takes part in our concerts and we've already done quite a bit of the repertoire for brass and choir, so I'm always looking for new stuff. Raymong Fahrner is a composer from the Cambridge, Massachusetts area. He was advertising the piece over the Internet and I mailed off for it thinking I'd give it a shot. It turns out it works quite well. It has a Medieval sound to it but also incorporates some jazzy chords."

In addition to playing with the choir, Edmonton's instrumental quintet Capital Brass will also do some solo work on the program. Admission is \$14 for adults, \$10 for students and \$5 for children—and a \$30 Da Camera season pass is also available. The Da Camera Singers holds auditions for singers every fall. You can visit them at their website, <www.connect.ab.ca/~dacamera>, for more information on performances or auditions.

**Da Camera Singers**  
Robertson-Wesley  
United Church  
Dec. 20

# Choke doesn't want to be '90s "fashion" punk act

ALTERNATIVE  
BY DARREN  
BOILEY

## PreVUE

From Camsask to Victoria, from basement show to basement show, the boys in Choke are struggling towards commercial success—or at least to find themselves some girlfriends.

Shy as they are, they are getting themselves out into the public eye. To complement their two earlier releases, *Lotion* and *Give'er*, they now have *Needless to Say* to impress the girls with. Hey! You can't blame the guys for continuing to try.

To celebrate the release of *Needless to Say*, distributed by Smallman Records/Page, the band is having a CD release party at the Rev Dec. 19. It will be joined on stage by Hoppers 13. For all its underage fans, Choke is having an all-ages gig at Area 51 Dec. 21. For this gig, they will be joined by Layaway Plan and 50 cents.

The boys of Choke include Shawn Montreiff on vocals and guitar, Jack Jaggard on guitar, Stefan Levasseur on drums and Clay Shea on bass guitar. They have been together for a few years and are all dedicated to the elusive pursuit of fame and fortune. Young and as idealistic as they are, they have managed to show some real mettle by taking charge of the business side of their careers.

"We do all of our own bookings," explains Shea. "Bookings are easy in Western Canada. Across the prairies, once you are proven, it is easy to get gigs."

Not limiting themselves to just playing in nightclubs and bars, Shea describes the numerous, and often more enjoyable, basement gigs they have done in the past. There is no sign of embarrassment in his de-

scription of playing in front of 40 or 50 enthusiastic fans in a house, then crashing on the floor for the night. This is one band that is prepared to make fans one by one.

On their numerous trips, they have ranged as far away as Ontario in trying to bring their brand of punk music to the masses. It is just problematic in getting the boys of Choke to admit that they are a punk band.

*Needless to Say* is filled with heavy, melodic hardcore music. Even with its heavily-structured format, it still sounds punk.

Says a resigned Levasseur, "The '90s are filled with fashion punks. Everyone is trying to be more punk than everyone else. Punk is where we get tossed. We play with punk bands, people think of us as a punk band, so we must be punk."

Like most bands, they don't want to be limited by the labels given to them. Shea asserts that they have many more influences than just punk. He says that they also have a strong heavy metal side to them.

Whatever the case may be, they will be continuing to play as many gigs as possible and trying to sell as many CDs as they can. With a trip to the United States already booked for February, it seems that the boys of Choke are going to have many new opportunities for both in the near future.

## Choke

CD Release Party  
w/ Hopper 13  
The Rev  
Dec. 19

## All-ages gig

w/ Layaway Plan  
and 50 Cents  
Area 51  
Dec. 21



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# All That Jazz

By Peter North

It's not exactly the time of year to expect a big menu of live jazz shows in our city.

With the Yardbird Suite being run—and very efficiently at that—by a strong core of volunteers, everyone involved needs a break and the music stops for a few weeks over the Christmas season before the doors open again early in the new year.

A few of our smaller café/bistros offer one-nighters now and then and you can check the listings in the back of this publication and find out if places like Benny's Bagels or Zenari's are presenting any of our local jazz players over the holidays.

Jazz fans who caught either the Herbie Hancock/Wayne Shorter and Joe Lovano concert that was part of Winspearation or P.J. Perry with the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra must be wondering when the hall will feature another jazz concert.

Apparently the folks over at the Jazz City Festival offices are working on finding a headliner for another concert, but reliable sources are under the impression that we may not be blessed with a major show from the organization until the spring.

\*\*\*

On the CD-release front it seems as though the major labels have been outdoing themselves with releases both of new projects and vintage albums from the vaults.

One can't say enough about the great care Universal puts into the Impulse! jazz catalogue that it began distributing a few years ago.

The releases feature fabulous liner notes and in most cases bonus tracks that were never released on the vinyl versions of the discs. One album of note to look for on Impulse! is *Mingus Plays Piano* that features the late and great composer, bandleader and bass player on his second album playing his second instrument on a set of pieces—many of which seemingly throw caution to the wind.

Other discs that have been thought of as essentials come from Alice Coltrane, Benny Carter, Oliver Nelson and Pharoah Sanders. It really does never cease to amaze this listener how much music this label recorded during its heyday and virtually all of it stands the test of time.

By the way, over the past two weeks



Big Miller's music lives on with a new CD.

this column has focused on fine releases by Cheryl Fisher and the late Big Miller with the Tommy Banks-led bands. Both of those discs are being distributed by Royalty Records, so if you're having any trouble tracking them down give the Royalty office a call and I'm sure someone will point you to an outlet that is handling the discs that would make nice Christmas presents for supporters of the Alberta jazz scene.

\*\*\*

This observer had the wonderful opportunity to travel in parts of Europe last year with an Alberta-based western swing band led by local country legend Hank Smith.

In that band was the world class fiddle player from Edmonton, Calvin Volrath. On off nights Volrath and some of the boys would jam at a small pub in the German Alps. Volrath, who is best known for his spectacular tra-

ditional and country fiddle playing, can also swing with the best of them in the Joe Venuti and Stephane Grappelli veins.

While he hasn't made a move on recording a jazz album yet, it's great to hear that the nationally-acclaimed musician is in the process of cutting an album that will feature a number of country swing tunes that certainly border on swing jazz. The man is recording a couple of more traditional fiddle albums at the same time—and when this trio of albums arrives he'll have recorded, to my calculations, somewhere around 20 discs.

Volrath has worked a couple of shows in an acoustic quartet with blues singer/guitarist Mark Sterling, bassist Mike Lent and ex-Reclines guitarist Gordie Matthews—and hopefully that combination of players will grab some more gigs in the new year.

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Shawn Connor - Vancouver Courier

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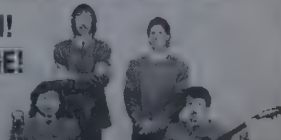
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### BLUES

BY CAM HAYDEN

"T was the night before New Year's and all through the town, not a blues fan was jumpin', or shakin' 'em on down."

Well, not quite, but pretty close. Last Friday when I got the call from *Vue* managing editor Amy Hough to write a column about all the blues gigs around town for New Year's Eve, I thought "great, this will be a piece of cake!"

Little did I suspect what was to come.

I called Gasoline Alley on 124 Street and learned that Dead Man's Train will be pumping out "Classic Rock". Billy Buds has Rock with Naked Ape; at the Sherlock Holmes on Whyte, where Robert Walsh and Farley Scott have been gigging

on Wednesdays and Saturdays, piano sing-a-long man A.J. will be belting out all your favorites; at Brandi's Blues Bar (a good bet by the name, you'd think) nothing was definite at press time although "Some of the Lent Brothers might make it down to play."

Over at the City Media Club where blues used to rule, saxophonist P.J. Perry will be holding his New Year's Soirée for the second year in a row, featuring fine dining and dancing to a jazz orchestra.

Looking past the clubs, and in a bit of desperation I called the First Night Festival office and spoke with Production Manager Don Snider.

"You know, Cam," he said, "We've got a Celtic band, an African band, solo acts, duos, trios, quartets, buskers, even a full-blown accordion orchestra, but no blues this year." Rats.

The *Edmonton Queen* has come unglued and canceled everything between now and next May—and the Convention Centre and the Bear are presenting Wide Mouth Mason with Welcome. Wide Mouth Mason is close, but no cigar. At Red's, it's the house band, and the Side-track is presenting the Kit Kat Club—a really fun band and great entertainment, but not the blues.

I was starting to get the blues, big time.

Twelve phone calls later, and all I could come up with was the yearly "Customer Appreciation Night" at the Blues On Whyte. The Mere Mortals will provide the music and the Blues on Whyte

will show its appreciation by providing party favors, drink specials and noisemakers—and, there's no cover.

Now, I'm sure that the Blues On Whyte will be a fun gig, but really, the only blues gig in town? There was a time in Edmonton, not too long ago, when we would have had our choice of five or six Blue Year's Eve parties to attend, with each offering something a little different in calibre of entertainment, ambiance, food and price range. They all used to do OK. I don't want to sound like a whiner, but surely we could do better by Edmonton's blues fans. It might be one of those years where you stay home, put a log on the fire, have a few friends over and crank up the stereo good and loud.

In the meantime, you may want to get some blues in before the drought happens. Brother Ray Lemelin is up from Calgary at the Commercial this weekend—and around the corner at the Brews and Cue Harpdog Brown will be doing a Christmas Party with the help of Stu Mitchell on drums and Fred Larose on bass this Friday and Saturday.

If you really have to have a fix of hardcore blues on New Year's Eve—and you like to drive, you might try the King Edward Hotel in Calgary where you can catch the incomparable Sonny Rhodes. ●

*Cam Hayden hosts the Friday Night Blues Party from 9 p.m.-midnight and Alberta Morning from 6 a.m.-9 a.m. weekdays on the CKUA Radio Network, 94.9FM or 580 AM.*

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## Society drops the Bomb on ska tradition

SKA  
BY DAYTO  
LALINE

PreVUE

Anyone who's sick of going to clubs and seeing bands go up on stage and just stare at their feet and suck, please raise your hands. ...74, 75, 76, OK, you can put your hands down.

If you're like me, you like bands that show more energy and stage presence while performing—the type that grab your attention and hold onto it. This is the case with the local group Mad Bomber Society—who take ska music, throw it in your face and make you dance like a manic on speed. The impressive eight-piece make sure you're having a great time because you can tell they're having a blast. I had the chance to talk to the group's guitarist, Rich Liukko, about the band's prospects, '60s pop culture and the demands of being part of a group that's popularity is growing.

The group, who have only been together for about eight months, is a band that "puts in 100 per cent into what they are doing," Liukko stresses to me.

It is a collective that has total input into the musical growth of the group. It also takes its influence from '60s ska groups, but Liukko maintains he and his bandmates are not purists in the ska movement anopenly wel-

come fresh ideas into the group.

I saw their show at the New City Likwid Lounge last Saturday and heard half the band were sick. So I was expecting sleepy ska music with the prospect of the band holding off-stage vomit contests. This was not the case. The band launched into their first song with such vigor and energy you would have thought Jolt Cola was running through their veins. Their infectious grooves of original and cover material had the whole place moving. But if you didn't feel like dancing, the band was "ska dancing" (something I'm still trying to master) and making it look all too easy. Pretty good for a bunch of people with the flu.

As for the future, the group hopes to continue making music that people will enjoy, music people can listen to and have a good time. Keep your eyes open for future dates, such as their upcoming gig at King Edward's (7705-85 St.). A tour of Western Canada could possibly happen as soon as the band members get their personal agendas in order. The group would also like to get some recording done early in the new year. Make sure that, when you do check out this great new band, you come early because the place fills up fast. ●

*Mad Bomber Society*  
King Edward Hall  
Dec 19





The Smalls ▷ Hitting the big time.

## Smalls go on a New Year's Eve Hellbender

**ALTERNATIVE** *PreVUE*  
BY DAVE JONESTON

Even Corby Lund, rock star extraordinaire, has to fight for phone time.

Part way into the interview, Lund's upstairs neighbor comes on the line and begs to use the line briefly.

"We get along pretty well," Lund comments after the fact.

Strangely, Lund's laid-back manner seems appropriate for a member of possibly Canada's hardest-working hard-rock band. While people may listen to any of the Smalls' intense musical sojourns and have them pegged as a group of seriously bleak individuals, the truth is that they're as friendly as anyone from small-town Alberta would be.

Unless you piss them off. Then things get kind of ugly.

Currently Lund and his associates, Mike Caldwell, Doug Bevans and Terry Johnson, are searching for a new distribution route for their back catalogue, which has been unavailable for some time. Cargo botched distribution for the group, "along with a few other

things," resulting in a very unamiable split earlier this year.

"We finally got the masters back for [our three albums]," Lund says. "We've been talking to a couple of companies interested in getting these things out there, so hopefully we can get this sorted out early in the new year."

There's no love lost, it would seem. Cargo still owes them "a whack of cash" and the band would like to further the distance from the company by returning to its roots. After an active year of touring (which included a stab at Europe late last year), the Smalls settled down for the better part of this year assembling material for an upcoming release in the new year.

"A lot of people have been asking for it and we realize it's been a long time," explains Lund. "Our last album [*Waste & Tragedy*] came out in 1995, but we can't rush things like this. I find that the quality can suffer."

Lund claims that close to half of the album is already written and composed, with more material to come very soon. People attending their New Year's Hell Bender over at the Old Scona Arts Barns Dec. 31 can "definitely expect to hear a lot of the new stuff." While the Hell

Bender isn't the largest show they've ever done, the Smalls have found themselves on a unique bill that includes the L.A.M.S., Old Reliable and the Las Vegas Crypt Keepers. For Lund, this is an ideal gig.

"Some people expect everything to be heavy, but I've always enjoyed variety at a show. Old Reliable, for example, is nothing like us, but it's good that they're playing. With shows like this you get a taste of everything." The lineup isn't the only attraction, however. Despite the problems the band has had over the past year, the Smalls have managed to remain one of Edmonton's more successful bands. Lund claims he and his mates have turned the band into a way of life, making ends meet simply by keeping up with the demand.

Attending the Hell Bender is a chance to bring in the New Year with local legends.

Not bad for four small-town boys. Not bad at all.

**The Smalls**  
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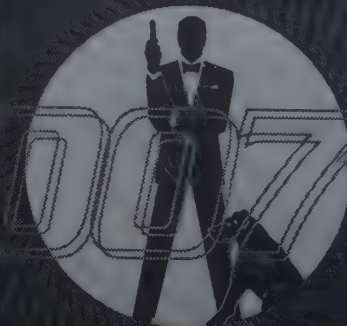
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when he recorded the Robert Johnson song as a member of Paul Butterfield's Better Days but it still cooks. Jim Byrne's singing on "Wrapped Up, Tied Up" makes one wonder why the Vancouver resident isn't a national music hero.

Great music at a budget price and the same goes for number two, which includes performances from Johnny Shines, Professor Longhair, Maria Muldaur, Bobby Charles and Downchild.

Peter North

**LAUREN CHRISTY**  
Breed  
(Mercury/PolyGram)

Lauren Christy is Sheryl Crow's dark side. While Ms. Crow is currently reinventing herself as an uptown bad girl, Ms. Christy seems to be already there, strumming her guitar and singing about what it's really like to be a woman nowadays.

Then again, I'm a guy, so what do I know about being a woman?

Listening to *Breed* seems to be a strong primer for clueless fellows such as myself. Throughout the 11 songs included here, Christy demonstrates a solid right hook, simultaneously sultry and brutal if it were at all possible. "I Want What I Want" is an unforgiving anthem that sinks anything the anemic Spice Girls could ever trump about. "Magazine" is a equally deadly stab at the fashion industry, trashing the mixed messages resplendent on newsstands every month. And forget about calling her up when you break up with your girlfriend, brother, if "Boomerang Bang" is any indication, she'll mess you up but good.

Christy isn't always so fierce, as her softer, vulnerable side emerges on songs like "You Make Me Laugh" and "The Night I Saved Peter Ustinov." There's an explosive quality in these songs, but Christy keeps it in check, opting to let her razor-sharp wit do the talking.

And while she claims the latter song is based on a true event, you can't help but feel she can spin a good story regardless.

As pop records go, *Breed* is a powerful manifesto for a young artist.

Christy is the real McCoy, full of sweat, sex and self-assurance. In an business built upon appearances, it comes as a bit of a relief to know somebody isn't faking it.

Dave Johnston

**LAIKA**  
Sounds of the Satellites  
(Too Pure)

Laika's latest effort is the band's most ambient, flowing and melodic effort to date—and it's damn good too.

Margaret Fiedler's voice rests like a feather on top of a soundscape filled with electronic invention and unconventional rhythms. There's more than an obvious nod to the trip-hop sound—and this is a much stronger effort than Portishead's latest, to boot. "Breathin'" features a flowing musical background which changes pace halfway through (when Fiedler's vocals finish) and becomes an addictive, melodic instrumental jaunt. "Almost Sleeping" fiddles with chunky trip-hop beats and mixes with the genre, uniting jazz influences with techno.

It's an engaging experiment, one which sees the sextet create ambient-rich soundscapes with instruments as diverse as Moogs, vibraphones and trumpet. Definitely to be cherished along with your spiritualized albums as great music to take drugs to. And unlike so many bands much more experienced in the genre than Laika this is a bit of a departure (for the band), the British sextet fails to fall into the trap of getting tracked into music with homogenous beats and styles. Each song offers a bit of a change-up, meaning you won't have to have your random mix programmed on your CD player the next time you go floating in space.

Steven Sander

**R.L. BURNSIDE**  
Acoustic Stories  
(M.C. Records)

Jeez Louise, can you believe it? It's 1997 (check your Chinese Calendar, it's the Year of the Butt-Kickin' Album) and here's a bluesman who's got it right for a rare change. What I'm talking about is the difference between true blues played in the proper way and that sort of tight-assed 12-bar blues that too many artists (and nearly all of us white people) sadly mistake for the blues.

What's the difference, you ask, with a trace of defensiveness? Well, as Iggy Pop said in his hilarious book *I Need More* (recently back in print on 2.13.61), "The first thing I noticed about playing with these black guys—older guys—their music was like honey off their fingers—real charming and childlike in its simplicity and lack of any real arrangement, not like any Chicago blues played by the white guys who really misinterpret. There was no actual arrangement. Each guitar player had about 20 understood riffs, and everybody knew what to do depending on what was appropriate for the song. They all played so it fit. They listened to each other."

Now, this album is more of a solo thing, but the sentiment applies here, too. Burnside has listened carefully to the style of blues played by those who know—including Muddy Waters, John Lee Hooker and... R.L. Burnside.

T.C. Shaw

**RICHARD STOLTZMAN**  
Atta  
(BMG Classics)

I never thought I'd live to see (or hear) the day: classical muzak. Clarinetist Stoltzman plays Top Ten Opera Favorites so you can hear them without those annoying voices and lyrics.

What's the point? Great composers like Puccini wrote for the voice every note in "O mio babbino caro" and "Che gelida manina" is written specifically because of how that vowel will sound when sung by a specific voice type. If you're looking for back-ground music, don't play this bastardized tripe, pick up a Schubert trio or something. That said, the *Porgy and Bess* bits ain't bad, probably because they're more jazzy—and Stoltzman knows his way around a clarinet. He should have stuck with Gershwin and left the Italians alone.

David Gobell Taylor

**G. LOVE AND SPECIAL SAUCE**  
Yeah, It's That Easy  
(Sony Music)

The third effort from the undisputed king of the white fusion blues is surprisingly mellow. Where G. Love's previous efforts were astonishingly raucous takes on the blues, this is a rather safe, white effort. Even G. Love's homage to basketball "I-76," comes off as a rather contrived attempt to get airplay in Philly (as the song title suggests, the song is about the 76ers, from Julius Erving to Maurice Cheeks to Allen Iverson). Unlike his rather excellent, sweaty attempts, G. Love has made a mistake this time around—he thought, "Yeah It's That Easy."

Steven Sander

**LOVERBOY**  
VI  
(CMC Int'l./BMG)

The first time I saw Mike Reno, insouciant if somewhat pudgy lead vocalist/icon for (it pains me to say this) seminal Canadian "rock" band Loverboy, he was fronting a deservedly obscure outfit called Moxie as the opening act for Rush at the Kinsmen Field House. While what came to be known as punk was making front page headlines, that night the show was almost canceled when Geddy Lee got hit in the head with a roll of toilet paper. This would be around 1976.

Forward to 1979. The next time I saw Reno, this time at the CHED Bicy-

cle Picnic at Rundle Park, he was fronting an equally-deservedly obscure outfit called Loverboy, whose image was, well, let's just say radical they were not. Their absorption of punk's impact was to appropriate a watery version of the Clash's onstage look. In Reno's case, this meant a bright red T-shirt, garish yellow leather pants and a heavy rockin' bandanna, though his hair wasn't long enough to actually you know, need one.

Anyway, about 300 years and nearly as many trends have come and gone in pop music since then. After all that's gone down, it's nice to see that Reno and company have stuck to their more or less unloaded guns. That means while some of the riffs are actually pretty sharp, and as together as they are musicwise, it seems that they've managed to make it through two decades without being influenced by anything that's gone down in the meantime.

Now, as then, nowhere is their music as at home as it would be blaring out of a pair of oversize speakers at some junior high sock hop somewhere. With their original line-up virtually intact, it seems as though Loverboy would rather stay in a little part of the past, embracing the inveterate meaninglessness of the era (Trooper, Prism, Triumph, Nick Gilder, etc.) it came up in. It's as if the band was told, "Now, look, goddammit, we want more of the same and no guf from any of you or we'll rip you another one here and now! And then, it's back in the fridge with the lot of you!" Loverboy obligingly obliged. The (grand)kid is hot tonight, so to speak.

Great. All we need now is another Alan Thicke talk show and the '70s, Canadian style, are back.

T.C. Shaw

**OCTOPUS**  
ost  
(Rykodisc)

OK, there's some really good soundtrack out there; *Reservoir Dogs*, *Trainspotting*, even *Grease*—but what is this? With songs like "Yo Yo Fight and Death of Vijay," "The Chase Bomb Theme" and "009 Gets the Knife and Corbinda Attacks" this soundtrack is only for the serious collector. As in kooky, ga-ga, fanatical collector.

It has two tracks of movie dialogue, the theme song "All Time High" by Rita Coolidge and then 10 tracks of suspense music. Good for role-playing only.

Amy Hough

**KELLY JOE PHELPS**  
Roll Away The Stone  
(Rykodisc)

With a very sweet 12-string lap steel guitar, Phelps pays homage to deep blues with a captivating blend of the firm and the subtle, creating a convincingly genuine feel that escapes so many contemporaries. Akin to the great individuals of country blues, Phelps' sound is distinctive and personal, while his singing voice is rich, warm and expressive. *Roll Away The Stone* is quite a find.

T.C. Shaw

**LISA LOEB**  
Firecracker  
(Geffen)

In her self-written press release, Lisa Loeb predicts that a journalist will say "she is back with her glasses" and that her new album, *Firecracker*, "snaps, pops and spatters." Well I won't be that journalist, because (a) I don't really care what she wears on her face or anywhere else and (b) because *Firecracker* is too damn boring to use such kinetic words.

How many cheesy guitar ballads can you possibly fit on one album? Twelve, apparently. She says the songs are "cathartic to write and are cathartic to sing." Well, they're catatonic to listen to. Perhaps Ms. Loeb should worry less about her eyewear and start correcting her musical vision.

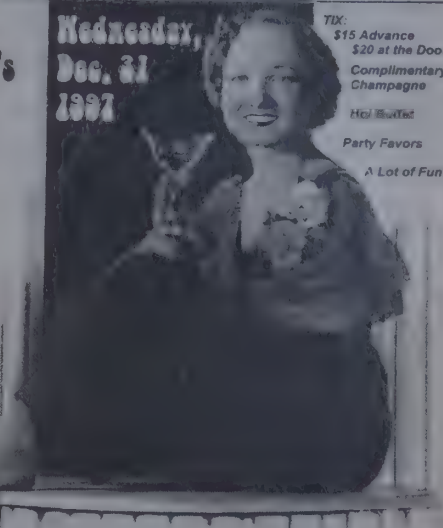
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**Vue Weekly reviews the latest Christmas CDs**

## THE NEW YORK PRO MUSICA

### ANTIQUA

English Medieval Christmas

### Carols

### RICHARD PURVIS

Music for Christmas

### JEAN RITCHIE

Carols for All Seasons

### THE SISTINE CHOIR

Christ is Born

(Rhyolite/Tradition)

These four discs were all recorded in the '50s and are among the 60-odd such recordings recently rereleased by Rykodisc under its Tradition label. With the boom of classical recordings since the advent of the compact disc, there are only two reasons to go digging into the vaults: for quality or history.

I'm not prepared to debate the historical value of the Ritchie and Sistine Choir discs, but I—and anyone with a functioning pair of ears—can certainly judge the quality: terrible. It annoys me that these people were recorded even once, let alone re-released. Either Pope John XXIII was deaf or they caught the Sistine Choir on an off day—every chord from start to finish is badly out of tune. And Jean Ritchie's voice screechily warbling along with her dulcimer has to be heard to be believed. If I didn't know better, I'd swear the disc was a parody, but obviously someone somewhere thought this caterwauling sounded good.

That said, the Pro Musica Antiqua disc isn't bad, but there have been many recordings in recent years that I would recommend first. First of all, they're actually in stereo, unlike this disc; secondly, they're more authentic and have bet-

ter singers.

And finally, the Richard Purvis disc is quite good—and actually in stereo. He plays his own arrangements of Christmas music on the carillon and organ of San Francisco's Grace Cathedral. It's a fine-sounding organ, and the acoustics in the church are great. And modern engineers could learn a thing or two from this recording—on primitive instruments, they managed to quite effectively capture the sounds of the organ. All of the sounds, including the mechanical sounds of the organ itself which you would hear in concert anyway, so why avoid them in recording? Such attention to authenticity is, unfortunately, as old-fashioned as this series.

David Gebell Taylor

## VARIOUS

Country Cares For Kids:

(BMG)

There are two prevailing attitudes towards Christmas. Some people think it's a time to whoop it up, go to parties and revel in merriment—I am of this mindset. Other people think it is a time to count your blessings and be thankful you're not rotting in the gutter. These people of the latter mindset like to ruin it for us of the former mindset. The people who made *Country Cares For Kids* are definitely of the latter mindset.

This album is about poor kids, dying kids, sad kids, lonely kids, orphaned kids...I don't think I've ever been so depressed in my life—I was actually close to tears. Ya sure, they throw in a few golden oldies like "I'll Be Home for Christmas" by Lonestar and "Holy Night"

by Martina McBride, but it doesn't make up for "Make a Miracle"—the song about all those sad little kids.

I'm not trying to crap on charity—this album benefits the St. Jude's Children Research Hospital—but good God, you don't have to hit people over the head with a sheer blow of depression to get your point across. So if you're interested in donating money to St. Jude's, give it to them directly and save yourself from these holiday blues.

Amy Hough

## VINCE GUARALDI

A Charlie Brown Christmas

(Fantasy/A&M)

Just about everyone on this continent has seen Charlie Brown's animated Christmas television at least once. The show won an Emmy its first year and has since become one of the most popular Yuletide shows ever.

The man who Charles Schultz enlisted to play the soundtrack is West Coast jazzman Vince Guaraldi, whose cool and inspired approach is probably his best-known work.

The 11 selections bring back a flood of memories from holiday seasons past—and good ones, at that. Who doesn't remember "Christmas Time is Here," complete with a vocal chorus from the cast of Lucy, Linus, Snoopy and Charlie—or the sparkling piano-playing by Guaraldi that accompanied the outdoor skating scene? If you love the *Charlie Brown Christmas* special, you'll love this disc.

Peter North

## THE CANADIAN TRUMPETS

A Christmas Experiment

(Jazz Village/BMG)

This collection of Christmas standards will enforce, pleasingly, the stereotype of the small-town brass band playing carols in the town square on Christmas Eve.

Recorded at Toronto's Humbercrest United Church during the Easter season of '97, the Brass manage to create rather original versions of standards like "Little Drummer Boy," "Jingle Bells" and "O Come All Ye Faithful" without bastardizing the songs. It's achieved thanks to the band's usage of melody and counter-melody, interplaying the trumpet pairings with French horn, trombone and tuba—sometimes allowing the bass instruments to rise to the fore while the trumpets provide the foundations.

The vocals, supplied by the Bach Children's Chorus and the Georgian Bay Christmas Choir, are traditionally rendered and arranged, a far cry from most of the Christmas dreck shilled in the '90s.

In an era when cheese-factor 10 albums rule the racks (everyone who buys that damn Hanson Christmas record deserves a lump of coal delivered into their stocking every year for the rest of their lives), *A Christmas Experiment*, despite the title, is a dependable collection sure not to offend anyone at your next Christmas party.

Steven Sendor

## VARIOUS

Season's Serenade: A Classical

Holiday Collection

(Deutsche Grammophon/

PolyGram)

It might strike one as a little odd that the world would release a Christmas album to be distributed by the Starbucks coffee chain. But the Deutsche Grammophon company will be celebrating its 100th anniversary next year, and it's survived so long for two reasons: (1) it invented the record player, and (2) it's always set aside pretense to do what needs to be done to get its records and CDs sold—and good on it, I say.

What *Season's Serenade* lacks in cohesion it more than makes up for in quality. This compilation gathers many of the biggest names in classical music, from Trevor Pinnock's English Consort to tenor José Carreras, pianist Martha Argerich, von Karajan's Berlin Philharmonic, the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, violinist Gil Shaham, the Emerson String

Quartet and the Dresdner Kreuzchor.

The only quibble I might have is this: the CD is only about half Christmas music. Sure, there's Vivaldi's *Gloria*, the *Nutcracker Suite* and "Silent Night" in its original German. But Fauré's *Pavane*? A Handel concerto grosso? A Beethoven string quartet? And, for God's sake, Satie's impressionist, almost dadaist, *Gymnopédies*? They're great pieces, but they don't sound like they fit alongside Praetorius' Christmas Mass.

The real find on this collection is Carreras's rendition of Ramirez' "El Nacimiento (The Nativity)." Pavarotti's "O Holy Night" has long been a Yuletide opera staple, but this song should replace it if there's any justice in the world. Carreras sings it beautifully, not blasting the listener into stunned attention through the sheer voice of his voice, but seducing with his fragile, beautiful high pianissimos.

You still can't do better than Deutsche Grammophon for quality recordings of quality performers. Should go down well with your double espresso.

David Gebell Taylor

## JANE SIBERRY

Child-Music for the

Christmas Season

(SHEENA Records)

The latest Christmas album from Jane Siberry was recorded live in New York City at the Bottom Line Club. This is the third release from Siberry's year-old record label, SHEENA Records.

The double CD features previously released material such as "Caravan" from her album *Maria* and some other Siberry favorites "The Valley" and "Hockey."

The CD also includes traditional Christmas hymns and carols such as "Silent Night," "What Child is This?" "Christmas Song" and "Twelve Days of Christmas"—featuring all 12 musicians in Siberry's entourage. There is also some spoken word throughout the album to get you into the holiday spirit.

This is a good album to have playing while you're sitting around the fireplace this Christmas. Its choral melodies are great for the holiday season.

Ann M. De La Fuente

## THE BRICKMAN

The Gift

(BMG)

This album reminds me a bit of an ice-skating spectacle. You know, "Canadian Ice-Skating Pairs do Xmas on Ice!" This album is mainly instrumental with traditional and original carols arranged by ivory tickler Jim Brickman.

The arrangements tend to be a bit too grandiose for the humble carols—this is where I see firecrackers shooting off as the ice-dancing man twirls the ice-dancing girl above his head. All though the images my mind conjures up seem to be quite lively, the experience I got from listening to this album was mainly a passive one. Usually when I hear Christmas tunes I can't help but sing and do a little jig. With *The Gift*, I just sort of thought of shopping in a mall—I wasn't inspired to perform an Xmas cabaret for my co-workers.

A few acclaimed Canadian singers lend their vocal stylings to the album; Michelle Wnght and Collin Raye are among the chosen few. But that doesn't help out enough for me to give this album the thumbs-up.

Amy Hough

## DORDÁN

The Night Before...

A Celtic Christmas

(Naxos)

What do you get when you mix New Age music with the strains of Celtic? Something that sounds remotely like Dordán, a band that plays what it claims are traditionally-based Irish Christmas Eve songs. If you don't like harp played over an extremely understated background of traditional Irish instruments sans percussion, I'd warn heavily against this one.

After a while, without accompaniment, the harp can sound like Chinese Water Torture. By track three I was wish-

ing the bloody Grinch would have beat the dreaded Whos after all—and that Christmas would have been destroyed forever.

New Age music and Irish reels seem to make for a bad mix, anyways. New Age music tends to be healing music for filthy-rich losers who have nothing better to do with their lives than explore alternative medicine and rub crystal Irish music is generally lively, meant to be accompanied by rounds of drinking, then lighting and sometimes talking about what bastards the English are.

I'll chuck this one in my "stay away" pile. There's just far too much hype about Celtic music in the industry right now, and it leads to tame musical wallpaper like Dordán. If you want a Celtic Christmas song, get a hold of the Pogues' "Fairy Tale of New York" and then proceed to drink Jameson's until you puke at Christmas dinner. At least that would be a Christmas worth remembering.

Steven Sendor

## DAVID ARKENSTONE

Enchantment: A Magical

Christmas

(Naxos)

Arkenstone's offering slots him in somewhere between the ever-emasculated sound of Kenny G, and hair-farmer's ropelink sensation Yanni. The frequent inclusion of Philip Glass-type synthesized voices lends an unintentionally ominous tone to the proceedings, rather than the desired effect which, I'm guessing, would have something to do with getting away from the overt commerciality of the holiday. Instead, it made me feel guilty and I'm not even Catholic.

While you have to admire the wit that went into making this disc, the music could work just as well as the soundtrack for a deep sea documentary. Or a Disney cartoon. Plus, the whole shebang is a little chime-ridden for my tastes, but I suppose the grandparents might appreciate it. On the other hand, when my own Gran came up for Christmas last year, she actually got into Moody Waters.

T.C. Shaw

## VARIOUS

Yule Be Boppin'

(Blue Note/EMI)

Here's the best of the lot this year, as far as I'm concerned.

A stellar cast of jazz players and vocalists came together to produce 11 tracks in which variety is the key. We are served up both vocal and instrumental standards whose arrangements are close to the originals, balanced by some fine performances in which the musicians take some liberal chances with newer original Christmas tunes.

We get everything from duos—on features guitarist Pat Martino running through "Santa Claus is Coming to Town"—to quartets, the best of which is led by tenor player Javon Jackson with the great Mulgrew Miller on piano, blowing hot on "Santa Baby." Sextets and septets with big-name jazz men like Bobby Watson, Bob Dorough and Joe Lovano.

An additional bonus is the fact that *Yule Be Boppin'* clocks in with over an hour's worth of inspiring music.

Peter North

## THE PERSUASIONS

You're All I Want For Christmas

(Rounder)

The Persuasions have been singing a cappella for 15 years and this is the first Christmas album. Sung in '50s style, the Persuasions deliver the Christmas goods in fine form. A lot of the golden oldies are featured: "Jingle Bell Rock," "Rudolph, the Red Nosed Reindeer," "Merry Christmas, Baby" and "What Are You Doing New Year's?" Also thrown in to the mix are the religious faves "The Jesus Song" and "Silent Night."

This album has a great mix—you'll know the words by heart of every song. This is the album you'll want to have for your Christmas party.

Amy Hough

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# Hello, Dolly! a tried-and-true theatrical friend

**THEATRE**  
BY ANDREW WEBB

**ReVUE**

Whether or not you've ever attended a production of the musical *Hello, Dolly!* you probably at least know the title song, popularized outside theatre by Louis Armstrong. When you hear the chorus, it's like being with a familiar friend.

As is the case with most friends, there are strengths to be applauded.

The stage looks swell with opulent designs by John Jenkins. His talents shine brightest in the second act when Dolly visits the Harmonia Gardens restaurant. What a fabulous joint, resplendent in shades of red, decked out with decadent chandeliers.

Of course, a place of such elegance should only be visited in the poshest of costumes. Designer Sean Breugh does not disappoint in this area. Countless corsets, hundreds of hats and a bevy of bustles combine to make the entire cast look absolutely divine in their 1890s styles. Breugh struts his stuff superbly in the closing musical number of the first act, "Before the Parade Passes By." Acrobats, jugglers, even the Statue of Liberty appear in a stunning assortment of spandex and spangles.

Sure to bring a smile to everyone's face is Jeff Haslam as Cornelius Hackl, a store clerk who shakes off his shackles for a glorious day of adventure in New York City. Haslam masterfully administers just the right dose of physical comedy, like Jim Carey on Prozac.

Hackl's partner in crime, Barnaby Tucker, is delightfully portrayed by Tim Howar, a triple

threat with equally strong vocal, dance and acting abilities. Impressive too, is Nancy McAlear as a squeamish and squawking milliner's assistant named Minnie Fay.

Kate Ryan has a starring role as Irene Molly, the woman who captures Hackl's heart at first sight. Ryan's voice has never sounded better and a collective sigh rushes through the audience after her ballad.

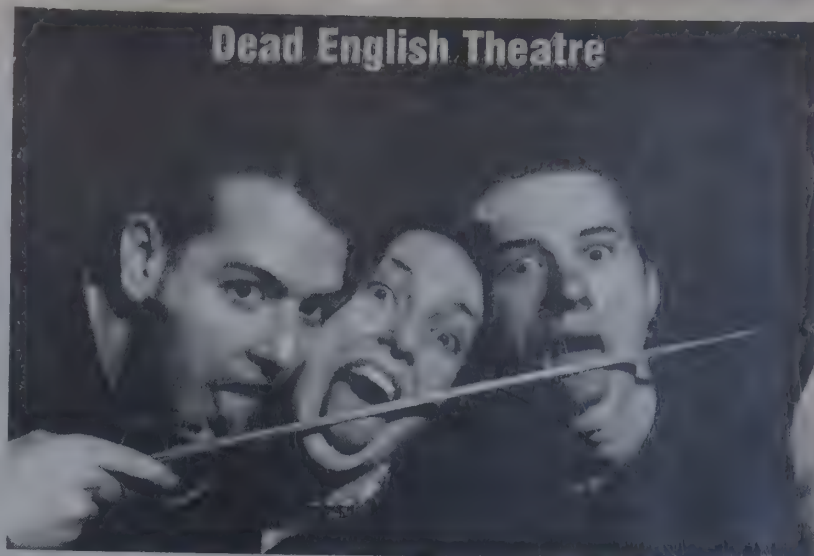
The role of Dolly is a tough one. Not only is the part demanding, but so many popular actresses have fit the bill so perfectly in the past, there are now big shoes to fill. Nora McLellan's interpretation of the role is charming. McLellan looks positively entranced by the attention bestowed upon her character on stage. Her effervescence lifts the audience. McLellan has good comic instincts and successfully manages to make believable those moments where Dolly "improvises" with razor sharp wit. Her voice won't make anyone swoon, but McLellan does belt out the tunes with gusto.

Try as we might to overlook the weakness of those we love, there are times when their shortcomings are apparent.

While the chorus members sing superbly, most possess merely passable dance skills. They perform the routines adequately, but are not capable of tackling anything more than basic steps. Consequently, the choreography is pedestrian, repetitive and not terribly challenging.

*Hello, Dolly!* remains a friend however. Reliable, solid and well worth a visit.

***Hello, Dolly!***  
Citadel Theatre  
Closes Jan. 18



Kurt Spenrath, Rachael Johnston and Danny Arnold will star in Rosemary Rowe's brand new play *Sir Walter Raleigh Tryeth Pretty Hard*. The play is about two prison guards in charge of the famous Sir during his last hours. Dead English Theatre guarantees you will laugh or your money back. It plays at the Varscona Theatre Dec. 26-28.

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## Cornelia's Ark lands on Whyte

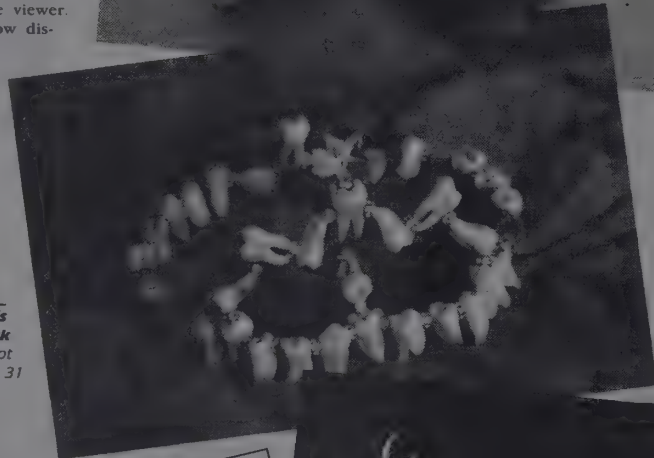
### VISUAL ARTS

BY DOUG SMITH

**D**azzling shiny happy creatures lurk downstairs at the Fringe Gallery (below The Paint Spot—10516 Whyte Ave.). Reconstructed fantasy animals are the end result of 25-year-old avant-garde artist Cornelia Ostovits's fascination with skeletal structures and a deep-seated need to take apart and rebuild things.

Ostovits uses a textures, glitter paint and a wide variety of colors combined with taxidermy forms and animal skeletons to create wild new fantasy creatures that amuse and enchant the viewer. The current show displays two years' worth of concepts and production. A companion 1998 calendar is also available. Gravity Pope will be devoting its window space to Ostovits's creations in January.

**Cornelia's  
Ark  
Paint Spot  
Closes Dec. 31**



## Now showing The Edmonton Art Gallery

### Alison Wilding: Territories November 22 - January 18

Co-produced by the EAG and the Art Gallery of York University, Toronto; generously supported by the Canada Council and the British Council.



Alison Wilding

Carpet 3

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Rhonda Hobbs "Studio Still Life," 1996, oil on birch panel. This work will be featured at the Latitude 53 auction fundraiser Dec. 18.

# Visual Arts

By Nora Abercrombie

"If I could do it, it isn't art," announced my companion.

I chortled, not so much at his verdict as at the fond memory it conjured. I had been at an opening where the artist—whose head resembled nothing so much as a bad-tempered thoroughbred—delivered an unforgettable response to a woman who commented that her child could create art equal to that featured at the opening. The artist blinked once, slowly, then grimaced a smile.

"Let the little bastard try," she drawled.

And so I chortled at my companion and thereafter applied his criterion to most of the art we saw that Saturday. "Couldja do that? How about this?" But in fact, part of his point is inarguable. So, as a final response, I said: "Maybe you could have done it....but you didn't."

In some ways it is a question of context. Stick a urinal in a gallery, light it prettily or monumentally, does it become art by virtue of its presence there? My companion became agitated at this suggestion.

"Then I have a bathroom full of art, is that it?"

"I dunno. If that's the way you want to see it."

He didn't. Perhaps he was concerned that if he viewed his bathroom as a gallery, he'd have to clean it more often. And get track lighting.

Discussing whether and how and in what ways plumbing can be or become art is pretty boring but reflecting upon context is fun. The act of sticking something in a gallery automatically bestows credibility upon it. Take, for instance, *Real Objects*, the exhibition of five Alberta sculptures curated by Denis Gautier. Or Alison Wilding's show on the same floor of the Edmonton Art Gallery. The sculptures are wonderful no matter where you see them but the context adds enormously to the experience of viewing. The EAG was constructed to show art, therefore we assume as we enter the building that the art inside must be important enough to merit being shown

there. We pay to get in, which adds to our assumption that what we are going to see must be pretty great. Then each piece sits in its own pool of light, in a room devoid of all distractions. People in uniforms follow us closely to make sure we don't touch or otherwise taint the art.

An aside: I witnessed what happened to one person who dared to touch one of the sculptures in *Real Objects*. "Don't touch the art," whispered a uniform.

"It's metal," whispered the culprit (who is also an artist).

"Yes, but if you touch it, everybody will want to touch it," whispered the uniform, a little more fiercely.

"And then there'd be pandemonium," said the artist. "Everybody running around wanting to touch art.

Touching art, touching art. Awful."

Anyway, the experience of viewing art in a gallery setting is buttressed by the context the gallery provides. Compare the sculpture on the second floor of the EAG with, say, the FOP show at Harcourt House where over 100 pieces of art are crammed into a tiny space. No paying to get in, no ascent up a grand staircase and each piece is definitely not honored by its own precious pool of light. Quite the contrary.

Does the presentation of the art change our assumptions about its importance? Yup. How much money it's worth? For sure. The nature of our experience of looking at the art? Absolutely.

Does a bottle of wine taste different if you drink it on a grassy knoll, a fancy restaurant, sitting on the back of your car in a parking lot? Same wine, right? Totally different experiences.

I love the idea that our way of looking is part of what creates the experience. I was recently in New York City and, woozy with looking through galleries, suffered briefly from the delusion that Manhattan is a giant collaborative installation/performance piece. It was a goofy feeling but I think I might understand Warhol better.

## Maitland warms up for a fireside chat

STORYTELLING *PreVUE*  
BY AUDREY WEBB

Hopefully, some of your childhood memories include being read to. There was always a great deal of comfort to be had in bedtime stories, snuggling up under your blankets and listening to the soothing voice of an adult read aloud a familiar tale.

U Maitland knows the power of words. For 46 years, Maitland was heard on CBC radio. As co-host of *As It Happens*, he told hundreds of stories which Penguin Books have recently published. Since his retirement in 1993, Maitland has been telling some of those same familiar tales to live audiences across Canada—"and back," he adds.

The warmth generated by the combination of his voice and choice of material prompted the late journalist Barbara Frum to dub him "Fireside AL," a name which has stuck "as long as I can remember," he says.

Fireside AL will be reciting a selection of Christmas stories in a simple manner: no set, no costumes, no special effects. The first 20 minutes of the program will consist of music by guitarist Paul Bernard—and Maitland will proceed with approximately one hour's worth of tales.

Despite the accessibility of videos, movies and television, Maitland believes there is a growing tendency to find entertainment in the written word.

"Young parents are reading more to their children than in the past," reflects Maitland. "Young parents are very wise these days and want the very best for their children."

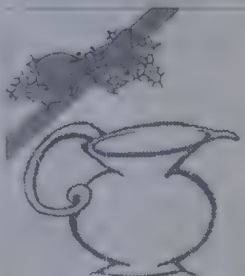
Maitland chooses the very best for his audiences, telling tales by such literary giants as Wordsworth and Dickens, a refreshing break from the Berenstain Bears.

Despite his appreciation for literature and his unique ability to convey the stories, Maitland balks

at the idea of writing some original work.

"Never!" he quickly replies. "I haven't got a story in me."

*Fireside AL*  
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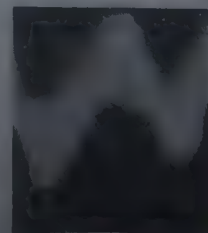
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# Bogie classic never gets old

## Casablanca almost didn't get filmed

**CLASSICS**  
BY GARY  
HOGUE

**Casablanca** has no lost a glimmer of magic since its release in 1943. It is strange how legends come to be because this classic (at least the *Casablanca* we know) almost didn't happen.

Prior to *Casablanca*, Humphrey Bogart landed a few roles playing gangster-types in low budget flicks, so Warner Bros. had no intention of casting such a shady character in the lead of a major motion picture. They had someone much better in mind—Ronald Reagan. When both Reagan and Fred MacMurray, of *My Three Sons* fame, didn't pan out, Warner opted to go with Bogart. Bogie was born to play Rick,

the quintessential anti-hero. While hiding out in *Casablanca*, Rick wants nothing but to pick up his broken heart. The Second World War intrudes, and in walks Ilsa (played by Ingrid Bergman), the source of Rick's misery. As Germany invaded France, Ilsa dumped Rick for war-hero-hubby Victor Laszlo, both of whom arrive in *Casablanca* by chance. Rick hits the booze hard when he sees her listening to their song in his bar. "Of all the gin joints in all the towns in all the world, she had to walk into mine."

Aside from the oft-misquoted "Play it again Sam" (the real line is "Play it Sam—you played it for her, now play it for me!") Bogart has a plethora of put-downs and one-liners to inflict on his stooge- and rivals.

Peter Lorre takes many verbal

lumps from Bogie as a craven worm so mesmerizing and repellent, he spent his career reprising his *Casablanca* role.

There are plenty of creeps and bad guys haunting *Casablanca*, but the main conflict in the film comes from Rick's own conscience. All Rick has to do to get Ilsa back is to rat her husband out to the Nazis—who are on Laszlo's trail. Does Rick flush what's left of his humanity to schlep Laszlo's wife? Or does he redeem himself by throwing away his last chance at happiness?

You probably know the answer, but it's fun to rediscover *Casablanca* every year or so. Especially on the big screen.

**Casablanca**  
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# "Movies Worth Watching"

## Boyz 'N the Hood

Commentary by: Jacques Benoit,  
Instructor/Course Developer,  
Athabasca University & Grant MacEwan  
Community College

Sometimes movies that have something to say get our attention. Hollywood sometimes manages to take a look at America that is kind of meaningful, maybe, in a literary sense—where cultural issues are seriously portrayed. What a concept in Hollywood! In *Boyz 'N the Hood*, we not only get cultural issues, but family issues as well.

One thing you discover as you listen to critics of popular culture in general, is that more of them seem to demand greater realism in film and a sense of society being accurately portrayed in art. Also, having art act as a mirror of things that are already out there, so that we can see an accurate picture of ourselves. Is that the only purpose of art? Well, that's a question you have to ask yourselves.

Now, what this movie manages to do is avoid all the black-gang movie conventions and stereotypes. The only difficulty it runs into is that it is an issue-based movie. Issue-based movies sometimes get preachy. In this case, the target of the sermon is blacks. It's a movie about the difficulty of blacks against blacks and how blacks killing blacks is a thing to be avoided. Popular culture's record with non-white cultures isn't all that great. Take, for example, the black fathers of rock 'n' roll, whose music could only be played when white boys sang it on the radio. Of course, you had Amos and Andy on the radio—again, not a starring moment for black culture. And you had Alan Jolson doing his blackface on stage and screen. It took guys like Paul Robeson, Sidney Poitier and Bill Cosby to eventually make black culture real for us. Finally, you had a guy like Spike Lee come along with a lot of attitude and a lot of issues. John Singleton is, I think, essentially Spike Lee, but with the volume turned a little ways down.

What gives this movie its edge is not so much the violence but the expectation of violence throughout the movie. I mean, we know the scenes—helicopter-riddled neighborhood (you hear the sounds of helicopters throughout) and sirens. The rap on other movies about violence, like *Colors*, that have all this stuff plus the violence throughout, is that these movies tend to glorify violence, even at the same time they are trying to downplay it. If you show it on the screen and it looks good, people will be impressed one way or the other. That is a difficulty of filming in particular. This movie manages to avoid that because it doesn't focus on the violence throughout the movie. We see a lot of scenes of family life and there are also alternatives to violence throughout the film. *Boyz 'N the Hood* is a movie about trying to cope and trying to get away from the circumstances that we see in the 'hood. It's about how Dough Boy acts tough and thinks his street wisdom is going to get him through everything in life. It's about Rick, who thinks sports is the one way ticket out of the neighborhood. It's about Trey and how he feels and how his father feels—that education is going to be the only way he can make it out for good.

# Big-time stars make niche-market commercials

## World's Best Commercials suffers from globalization

**FILM**  
BY ROSSIE  
MULVEY

**G**lobalization is rampant. There is no place left in the world where one can escape Coca-Cola or Disney or Big Macs. The very worst thing about this homogenization of the world's culture is the impact on commercials.

It used to be that there were commercials being made that were for a very select audience; none of this lowest-common-denominator crap. These commercials were made by reasonably intelligent people who assumed that the people who would want to buy the product they were sell-

ing were also reasonably intelligent. This led to reasonably intelligent commercials being made.

Nowadays almost anything you can buy in Edmonton you can buy in, say, Great Britain or the Netherlands or the Philippines. The same people making commercials for Edmonton are also making commercials for the rest of the world.

Anyway, there are a few funny ads in this year's selection of the *World's Best Commercials* (not to be confused with the world's best commercials as rated by the Cannes Film Festival) and most of them are for products that are not available in Edmonton.

I got a kick out of the Black

Cat Whiskey commercial, which is more or less a spoof of all those over-the-top kung fu flicks that come out of Hong Kong. The premise is that Black Cat Whiskey only tastes expensive. I also enjoyed the Lynx Cologne ad, which involves an apparent fantasy being not so fantastic. It is also an example of how big stars are willing to be seen in commercials that will not be seen by the majority of their fans.

There are a few other ads that are, if not memorable, then at least entertaining at the time.

**World's Best Commercials**  
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# Titanic venture makes for spectacular film

## FILM

BY AUBREY  
MULVET

There is something poetically ironic about the film *Titanic*. The most expensive film in the history of filmmaking is about the greatest disaster in the history of ships. Ironic is, perhaps, the wrong word. It would only truly be ironic if the film sank as well.

*Titanic* was the unsinkable luxury liner that sank. It was one the final gasps of 19th century thinking trying to impose on the leaner, less stratified, more technological 20th century. It was launched in 1912 and was truly the last great example of British ostentatiousness, despite the fact that it was designed by an Irish engineer and built by Irish laborers with American money.

The film comes at the close of the 20th century when people are beginning to think that spending more than \$200 million on a film is, itself, the very height of ostentation and that perhaps Hollywood is about to lose its grip on the world in the same way that Britain lost its grip some 85 years ago.

Perhaps it is ironic. Nobody would deny that the *Titanic* was a great ship. It was a luxury hotel that not only floated but moved. It was a castle in the waves. I don't think that anybody would deny the film is a great film. The film moves as well, in more subtle, less obvious ways. James Cameron has made a film about a disaster that is not a disaster movie. Cameron is the writer/director responsible for *The Terminator*, *Aliens*, *The Abyss*, *Terminator 2* and *True Lies*. He also wrote and produced *Point Break* and *Strange Days*, both of which were directed by Kathryn Bigelow. The very least one can say about all these films is that they all have complex stories, they all demonstrate a fascination with technology and they all have very strong female characters.

*Titanic* has a very complex story. The film's story of the sinking is told by a 100-year-old woman, a survivor of the disaster. The woman—Rose, played by Gloria Stuart and Kate Winslet, was on the ship with her fiancée and her mother. She was made a gift called the Heart of the Ocean. It is this jewel that Brock Lovett, played by Bill Paxton (*Twister*) is actually looking for when he discovers a drawing of a beautiful young woman wearing the Heart during a deep underwater search of the *Titanic* wreck. The film moves seamlessly between the past and the present, showing us the beautiful Rose as a young woman and forcing us to see the beautiful Rose as a very old woman.

*Titanic* is about technology but in far less obvious way than in any of Cameron's previous films. All the underwater footage is of the actual wreck of the *Titanic*. Cameron filmed it himself. He and his brother—along with Panavision—developed a cam-

era that could survive outside of the submarine that used to explore the wreck. Previous film of the wreck had been shot through a tiny port-hole in the tiny submarine, whereas this footage is panoramic. Cameron wrote the script around the footage he obtained. The transition from floating through a rusty corridor two-and-a-half miles under the surface of the ocean to a view moving through an elegant corridor 85 years before is honestly magical.

*Titanic* is about a woman. Rose was born into a rich family. She is engaged to be married to the scion of an even richer family. She feels she has no choice in the matter and has no say in her own life, that she is merely an object to be bartered and put on display much like the overpriced rock that her fiancée played by Billy Zane (*The Phantom*) gives her. Rose begins a friendship and then a romance with a young free spirit: Jack Dawson, played by Leonardo DiCaprio (*William Shakespeare's Romeo + Juliet*) is an itinerant artist who won passage aboard the *Titanic* in a poker game. He is one of those characters that exist only in fiction who are happy, if not content with their station in life and who thrive because of a willingness to be lucky. Dawson empowers Rose. "Empowers" is an overused and misused term but that is what happens in the story. And it works. It works because both Winslet and DiCaprio are smart enough to understand the sheer improbability of the romance between their respective characters and to not overplay it.

With this story of the empowerment of a young woman just past the turn of the century, Cameron has made a movie that parallels the changing of society in this century. *Titanic* is a film that is less about the sinking of a culture's fascination with wealth than it is about people learning to want to make their own choices.

And it is a beautiful film. ●

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THE LAST DAYS OF FRANKIE THE FLY

Starring Dennis Hopper, Kiefer Sutherland and Michael Madsen

This film is all about Frankie (Dennis Hopper; *Blue Velvet*), a sad-sack, third-rate henchman for a third-rate mob boss named Sal (Michael Madsen; *Reservoir Dogs*). Frankie's nick-name is "Fly" because as Sal says: "Flies eat shit." And Frankie does his best fly imitation whenever Sal is near.

One of Sal's biggest business ventures is in the porn industry and it is Frankie's job to make sure the stars are supplied with condoms. It is on one of his many visits to the film studio that Frankie falls in love with Margaret (Daryl Hannah; *Splash*), an ex-junkie porn starlet who actually half-heartedly returns Frankie's affections.

But it is also at the film studio where Frankie first gets into trouble with Sal. The director of the illustrious films, Joey (Kiefer Sutherland;

*Freeway*), has a little bit of a gambling problem and is in to Sal big time. But Joey has a tip on a sure thing and needs someone to place his bet. So Joey asks Frankie to do this favor for him. Frankie agrees—with one condition: he gets to write a film that will display Margaret's true acting genius.

Sal soon finds out that Frankie and Joey are going against his wishes and they're both going to pay for it. So Frankie has to plan out his last days—and they're going to be good ones.

This is a very, very sweet and funny film. After seeing Hopper play so many psychos it's good to see he still has the talent to diversify his characters. As Frankie, he truly is a down-and-out loser but an endearing one at that. And the ending of this film is great—it caught me unaware. (Amy Hough)



# Cameron tries to dispel *Titanic*-sized rumors about blockbuster film

## FILM

BY DAN MCLEOD  
SPECIAL TO VUE WEEKLY

**T**ORONTO—Is it true that James Cameron is an egotistical perfectionist who demanded \$200 million of other people's money to make *Titanic* and brought studio bosses—as well as everyone working for him on the picture—to their knees in the process?

That's the kind of question on everyone's lips as journalists lined up to meet one-on-one with the writer-director in his Toronto hotel suite. When I talked to him, he was ingratiating enough at first.

"It must get so boring listening to bullshit artists [like me] talking about their theories of everything," he joked. Yet, he was visibly agitated at having to answer the money questions. And ask we had to. The first movie to cross the \$200-million threshold, *Titanic* has surpassed *Waterworld* as the most expensive film ever made. Cameron was also the first director to spend \$100 million when he made *Terminator 2: Judgment Day*. And no one's saying he won't be the first one to make a \$300 million movie. *Titanic* is also one of the longest Hollywood movies ever made, at three hours and 14 minutes—or, as one film distributor described it, "Two hours and 74 minutes."

An epic love story set against the background of the *RMS Titanic*'s ill-fated maiden voyage in 1912, *Titanic* stars Leonardo DiCaprio, Kate Winslet, Kathy Bates, Billy Zane, Bill Paxton and Frances Fisher. The film started out as a sure thing and mushroomed into a high-risk venture for everyone involved. Especially Cameron. After all, it was he who researched the *Titanic*'s history, wrote the story, made 12 dives to film the actual wreck in the North Atlantic, directed and edited and produced the picture, took charge of the special effects and supervised the building of huge sets that included an almost life-size replica of the original ship—along with a water tank big enough to float it.

As a result of his one-man-band approach, stories abound supporting Cameron's reputation as a control freak.

"If anything was the slightest bit wrong, he [Jim] would lose it," said Winslet. She suffered from hypothermia, almost drowned twice and endured bruises and gashes from falling on the ship's deck. While shooting in Halifax, Cameron fired director of photography Caleb Deschanel after frequent clashes and replaced him with Russell Carpenter. Cameron also fired two cooks, a move that backfired. The following night, 80 members of the cast and crew, including Cameron, were rushed to the hospital after eating PCP-laced food at a clam bake. The culprit was never found. When the project moved to Mexico and the budget careened out of control, a senior studio executive flew to the set to demand cutbacks and Cameron reportedly told him: "If you want to cut my film, you'll have to fire me. And to fire me, you'll have to



Leonardo DiCaprio and Kate Winslet in *Titanic* ▶ Trading a wedding for a wetting.

kill me."

"There were a lot of disgruntled people on that film," said Paxton in another interview. "Jim is not one of those guys who has the time to win the hearts and minds of the people. He is a driven, passionate, uncompromising, defiant, independent filmmaker and artist and visionary. You gotta keep up with Jim; he's not going to keep up with you."

Perhaps the ideal film for Cameron would be one with no cast or crew at all. Not surprisingly, he has such a project on the drawing board. Called *Avatar*, the film features at least six computer-generated "actors," all to be supplied by his Digital Domain effects company. DiCaprio's joke upon being cast in *Titanic*—"I'm grateful to work with James and not have to play an android"—may turn out to be prophetic.

Born in Kapuskasing, Ont. and raised in Niagara Falls, Cameron married for the fourth time recently after a seven-year relationship with actress Linda Hamilton that began when they worked together on *Terminator 2: Judgment Day*. The couple live in Malibu with their four-year-old daughter, Josephine.

"You also did your own nude sketches of Kate Winslet for the film..." I asked.

"Yeah, by default. We went to art schools looking for an artist, but I didn't like the style, so I wound up doing it myself."

"What did Kate think about posing nude?"

"Well, she posed for it. She's a pro. She's an artist. She gets it."

Did you also paint the Picasso and Manet 'originals' in the film?

"No. Marilyn McAvoy, our stand-by painter, who painted the sets, turned out to be quite a gifted artist. She has done reproductions of classic paintings, so she was the natural to do that. She did all the paintings in the ship, like on the landings of the grand staircase."

"The main characters, played by Leonardo and Kate, are fictional."

"Right. That includes her moth-

er [Frances Fisher], her fiancé [Billy Zane] and his valet [David Warner]. They're representative characters, representative of their class and representative of the kind of mores and standards of the time. The distinction that I hope most people will make is that, while this film is called *Titanic*, it's not just a documentary retelling of the events of *Titanic*. It's a story, like a novel. It's placed in a setting and it draws strength from that setting but it's not just the telling of the setting."

"All the talk in Hollywood about *Titanic* revolves around the budget. I've read that it started at \$90 million or \$100 million. One hundred and twenty-five and ended up at 200. Some reports say it's up to 280 or 300."

"I'm telling you what it cost. The speculation got so absurd that it really was just one journalist trying to one-up the next with the latest reveal. But, of course, it wasn't a reveal, it was just an extrapolation. I think that once people thought that it was in the \$200 million range, they could just say anything they wanted. Because there's a big difference between 285 or 300, and 200, which is what it cost. It was actually at 199, but when we finished the sound work a few weeks ago, it slipped over the line."

"Another report said that 20th Century Fox [the film's foreign distributor] looks on the high budget as a selling point, so they're thinking 'the higher the better.'"

"I think they've come full circle, from wanting to do spectacle at the beginning, which of course was my brief, to dreading the press scrutiny as the budget spiraled up—while, of course, dreading the expense, actually—to now realizing that they've now got something special and wanting people to know. I don't think anybody takes great pride in the fact that the film went over budget, but I think the studio takes pride in the film, which is all that ultimately counts. The person that benefits, of course, is the audience member who pays the same amount for the ticket [as

to see any low-budget film]."

"Did you ever have fears yourself that the budget was going too high?"

"Of course. Every day. It was a fight every single day to try to keep the film as organized as we could in very difficult circumstances. We

built a state-of-the-art facility [in Rosarito Beach, Mexico] that was essentially the size of the town in Canada that I grew up in. We built it and all our sets, from scratch."

"Are you talking about Niagara Falls?"

No, Chippewa. Chippewa was a town of 2,000 people. We had over 2,500 people on payroll on a given day when we were at the peak of construction of the facility and the sets. We built one of our biggest interior sets, as well as the building over the set, simultaneously. It was a mammoth undertaking, and it was a little bit more than we thought it would be to keep that all organized. We were all pretty well experienced with big budgets and we had all done those individual things separately but never all of them all at once. And I'd certainly never built a studio before. But now I don't have to, because I have it."

"Do you own the studio?"

"I don't own it. Fox owns it but I'm making my pictures with Fox, so I'll have access to it when I need it. I try not to own anything. It's just a liability."

"Did you sacrifice some of your own money to make the film?"

"All of my own money."

"You sacrificed your fees?"

"I sacrificed my fees and I sacrificed my profit participation for

*Titanic continues on page 34* ▶

This Christmas,  
Santa's got a brand new bag.



PAM GRIER SAMUEL L. JACKSON ROBERT FORSTER BRIDGET FONDA MICHAEL KEATON AND ROBERT DE NIRO

# Jackie Brown

a Quentin Tarantino film

ALLIANCE PRESENTS A BAND APART A FILM BY QUENTIN TARANTINO  
PAM GRIER SAMUEL L. JACKSON ROBERT FORSTER BRIDGET FONDA MICHAEL KEATON AND ROBERT DE NIRO "JACKIE BROWN"  
COSTUME DESIGNER CLAYTON KRAMER MUSIC BY DAVID JULYAN EDITOR DAVID JULYAN EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS JAMES HANNAH AND SALLY MENKE PRODUCED BY JAMES HANNAH AND SALLY MENKE  
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WRITTEN









# FINDER

## Page 6 • Cover

The First Night Festival has expanded, with four theme days staged on Whyte Avenue before New Year's Eve. Don't fret, the festival wraps up with a big soirée downtown spotlighting a plethora of Edmonton artists.

## Page 9 • Conspiracies

Our conspiracy theory specialist, Jason Margolis, has uncovered a very Canadian cover-up—the dastardly plot to keep Mark Messier out of the Olympics.

## Page 19 • Music

Calgary humor-rockers Chixdiggit! will return to Edmonton for a New Year's bash at the New City Likwid Lounge—and attendees will get a preview of the band's brand-new material, due out on disc in April...

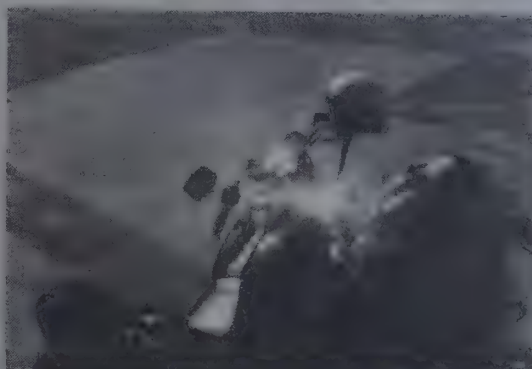
## Page 26 • Xmas Music

This week, we devote a full page of reviews for those good, mediocre and bloody-Grinch-awful Christmas CDs that are front and centre at your favorite record store.

## Page 31 • Film

A restored 35-mm print of the classic *Casablanca* will screen this week at the Metro—but did you know that the role made famous by Humphrey Bogart was originally earmarked for Ronald Reagan?

Leonardo DiCaprio and Kate Winslet sail aboard the sinking ship in the new James Cameron epic, *Titanic*. Cameron answers his critics and talks about the \$200-million movie on Page 33.



Local artist Cornelia Ostovits is presenting her unique brand of sculpture at the Fringe Gallery until Dec. 31. For a photo feature, see Page 28.

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## SIDETRACK

SHOWTIME  
9:00 PM  
NIGHTLY

DECEMBER 22

NEW MUSIC MONDAYS  
HOSTED BY

Bill Bourne

DECEMBER 23

SWINGIN' TUESDAYS

Jeff Hendrick  
Group

DECEMBER 26

BOXING DAY BASH

Mike Plume  
Band

WITH

The Girl  
In The Band

DECEMBER 27

DOUBLE DANCING  
BANDSTAND

Godiva

AND

100 Watt Bulb

DECEMBER 29

NEW MUSIC MONDAYS  
HOSTED BY

Mike McDonald

DECEMBER 30

SWINGIN' TUESDAYS

Fat Tuesday  
AND GUESTS

NEW YEARS' EVE

'98 Soirée

FEATURING

Kit Kat Club  
ADVANCE TIX NOW ON SALE

JANUARY 1

Blue Locutus  
SPACE FUNK

JANUARY 2

Kissing  
Ophelia

WITH

Pal Joey

JANUARY 3

Seanachie  
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Tom Jones

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We strive to ensure that our comprehensive listings are correct. However, in this uncertain world events beyond anyone's control can torpedo even the best laid plans of mice and men. Letters/artwork submissions are always welcome by fax, mail, e-mail, or roundell hand delivery. Special Christmas greetings to all our readers. Remember to turn on your burglar alarm Christmas Eve. You never know what kind of sick, sex-crazed, red-suited pervers will try to get into your stockings.

# First Night offers severe exposure for Edmonton artists

## EVENTS

BY DAVID GOSSEL TAYLOR

The First Night Festival, Edmonton's biggest and brightest New Year's Eve bash, may not serve alcohol—but according to Don Snider, that doesn't mean you can't have a lot of fun—or, if you want, even a drink or two.

"It's open for anyone and everyone," says Snider, the festival's production manager. "Sure, we don't serve alcohol, but why should we? We're not sponsored by alcohol." And they obviously don't want to be, given that they concentrate on being a community arts event, leaving the booze to the myriad of bar bashes that will also run Dec. 31.

"But you don't have to have kids to enjoy the festival," he continues. "We have something for everyone. And the alcohol is a non-issue to me: we don't serve it, but the 38 bars in spitting distance do. So if it's not New Year's Eve to you without a drink, it's easy to catch one between shows."

"What we base ourselves on is a community celebration of the arts in Edmonton. Even if you just come down and catch one show, it's only eight bucks—it's worth your money. You catch three shows, you're ahead of the game."

When Snider says that he has something for everyone, he's not exaggerating. Virtually every art form is represented in the festival, from music to dance to theatre to storytelling to visual arts—and in a multitude of genres.

Indoor shows, almost all connected by the Pedway system, kick off at 6:30 p.m. on New Year's Eve downtown in just about every major building between Jasper and 103A Ave. and 99-102 St., including City Hall, the Citadel, Eaton Centre, Winspear Centre, Shaw Conference Centre and Canada Place.

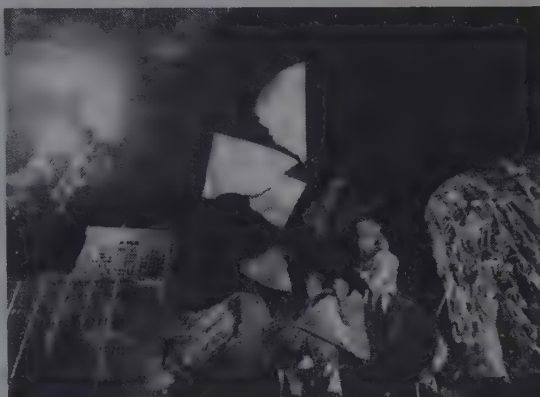
The festival is divided along thematic lines into "the villages of the four winds," with the north, south, east and west winds represented by, respectively, Celtic, Central and South American, Asian and Canadian arts.

The activities are too numerous to list here—they're all described in the festival program, which is available along with the \$8 festival button at 7-Eleven stores, Cleaning by Page locations and Tix on the Square. The button gets you into any indoor show for free.

First Night will be continuing its traditional "Trees of Regrets, Hopes and Resolutions," in which you can write down your wishes for the New Year on a sculpture forest—or, more popularly, burn your regrets (a letter, a failed exam, an outrageous unpaid bill) in a bonfire.

The last indoor show ends at 11:30 p.m., at which time the grande finale begins in Churchill Square, complete with conga lines, fire dancers, inflatables and, finally, a musical fireworks display at midnight.

Like everyone else in the city, Snider is enjoying the recent unseasonable temperatures. And while he doesn't hope it plummets to -30 C for the festival, he could do with a bit less mercury, if only for the sake of the 2,241 sq. ft. of snow he'll need for the giant 10th anniversary cake sculpture planned



First Night Festival ▶ Auld Lang Syne of the times.

for Churchill Square—not to mention the 10 ice candles which will be part of an ice-carving competition. He has trucks picking up ice shavings from arenas already, and plans to set up the cake this weekend, El Niño permitting.

"Every year has its different challenges," says Snider. "If it's not too warm, it's too cold. If it's not too cold, my assistant gets food poisoning—like last year."

Snider has the seemingly daunting task of overseeing the transportation of 20 venues' and 50 performing groups' worth of equip-

ment downtown.

"Most of the equipment is pre-set in strategically located storage rooms. We roll in at 4:00 and we're ready to go by 6:00. We strike some of the venues before the fireworks, and then everything else has to be back in storage by 2 a.m."

Luckily he has a crew of over 100 paid and volunteer people to help. "They really go above and beyond the call of duty," he says, "because that's expected of them." Well...if it's expected of them, then it is the call of duty, but you can see Snider's point when you consider the fact

that many of the techies are too busy to even catch the fireworks or sing an "Auld Lang Syne" at midnight.

Snider, besides being a technical guy, is a firm believer in the cultural aspects of the festival—and isn't bad at selling them, either. "The great thing about the First Night festival is the exposure we give our artists," he says. "We offer things in a specialty vein; if you don't go to the Irish clubs, you won't see a great Celtic band like Sheela Na Gigh. Now they have their names on 20,000 programs—and a lot of people will be seeing them for the first time."

"When we hire someone, we offer them a whole new piece of exposure. They're not just one show advertised in the corner of a paper somewhere."

"Actually, we're kind of like the folk fest," he muses. "You buy your ticket [or, in this case, button] because there are three good names you really like, but you know that when you get there there's going to be 20 others you'll be exposed to. We're the same idea in that we're a smorgasbord of entertainment, but we're not just folk music, we're rock music and Celtic and African music and dance and theatre and everything else." ●

**First Night Festival**  
 Downtown  
 Dec. 31

## First Night Festival extends to four nights on Whyte

### EVENTS

BY DAVID GOSSEL TAYLOR

To celebrate its 10th anniversary, Edmonton's annual New Year's Eve festival is expanding its dates, location and audience base, running a four-day festival before the main event.

Located at the Arts Barns in Old Strathcona, this event is geared to a teenage audience, as opposed to the more family-oriented First Night Festival itself.

"Edmonton is a city of festivals, but there aren't enough in the wintertime," says Memi Von Gaza, co-artistic director of the First Night Festival's newest venture, First Night Off Whyte.

"Although there have always been some events [in the First Night Festival] programmed for youth, now there are four days of events. They have a wonderful culture that's vast and colorful—so this is a celebration of youth culture."

Von Gaza and her artistic director partner, Peter Fields, have chosen a theme for each of the four days of the festival from Dec. 27-30. In order, they are: Retro Six O (for the '60s), First Knight (Celtic/Medieval), Gothic Proportions (Goth) and the self-explanatory Sci-Fi.

"In keeping with those themes, we've booked bands that are along those lines and we've scheduled activities and planned decorations that are geared to-

ward the theme of each particular day," says Von Gaza. The activities start at 2 p.m. and the bands play from 8 p.m. until the day's closing at 11 p.m.

There has already been a lot of advance interest in the bands, she says, mostly due to the familiarity of the groups to Edmonton audiences. They've lined up Moving Bears for Retro '60s night, Captain Tractor for Celtic/Medieval, Party Doll A Go Go and L.A.M.S. for Goth and three DJs from Universal Dance Productions for Sci-Fi. Music starts at 8 p.m. on each day.

But there are plenty of other activities throughout the day as well, including a Magic Cards tournament, a psychometrist, a giant video game wall, a "Sci-Fi Gothic Horror Maze," an industrial scrap sound sculpture (say that three times fast) and skateboarding demonstrations, to name but a few.

The Victoria School of the Arts will be hosting an activity called "Cast Yourself in a Classic," in which audience members star in a movie that's considered a classic of the genre-of-the-day. *The Graduate*, *Excalibur*, *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* and *Star Wars*. "If someone has always wanted to play Darth Vader," says Von Gaza, "here's their opportunity."

Von Gaza and Fields are in charge of the "Making-of-cool-stuff-eria," in which they'll be wielding hot glue guns to make clothes and accessories so that participants can,

in Von Gaza's words, "turn themselves into an apparition that will appall their parents"—always a popular youth activity. There's also a clothes swap area for people to trade their duds in a pure free-market barter system.

One final activity worth mentioning is "Clark Kent's Closet." No, this has nothing to do with the sexuality of Superman.

"It's a giant photo booth like you'll find in a mall," says Von Gaza. "But with a twist: there's a camera that records your antics and simulcasts it to the audience outside."

Don Snider, the production manager of the First Night Festival proper, is enthusiastic about First Night Off Whyte and has firsthand knowledge of Von Gaza's abilities, since she designed the reception of his wedding.

"She can build a flower box that'll make you want to grow flowers till your heart falls out," he says. "I'm not quite sure what that means, exactly, but it sure sounds like a vote of confidence."

Von Gaza hopes that this experiment will pay off and that the First Night Off Whyte will become an annual event. Who knows, maybe they'll have to change the name of the festival to First Night and the Last Four Nights. ●

**First Night Off Whyte**  
 Arts Barns  
 Dec. 27-30



# VUEnews

by Steven Sander

A look back at the week that was...

## Premier refuses to meet with tainted-blood victims

Hot on the heels of the Krever Report's release, Alberta Premier Ralph Klein has refused to meet with Albertans who contracted Hepatitis C through tainted blood.

Justice Horace Krever stated in his report that the spread of tainted blood could have been quelled had the provincial and federal governments taken greater measures and introduced more elaborate tests which would have screened contaminated donations out of the system.

After receiving letters from Hepatitis sufferers inviting him to visit with them, Klein refused. In a letter, he stated he is "unable to meet" with them "at this time."

Minister of Health Halvar Jonsson also turned down a similar request from the Hepatitis victims.

The province's refusal to acknowledge the Hepatitis sufferers has fueled the ire of New Democrat leader Pam Barrett.

"The hundreds of Hepatitis C sufferers deserve to be heard by the government," she said. "It is the very minimum the Premier should be doing for them."

Barrett claimed that one of the sufferers the Premier refuses to meet with hails from Klein's own Calgary riding. Barrett also blasted the government for refusing to implement a trace-back system, which would test everyone who received blood between '85-'90 for Hepatitis C. British Columbia has implemented the system—and so far, 68 per cent of those who received blood in that time frame have been tested.

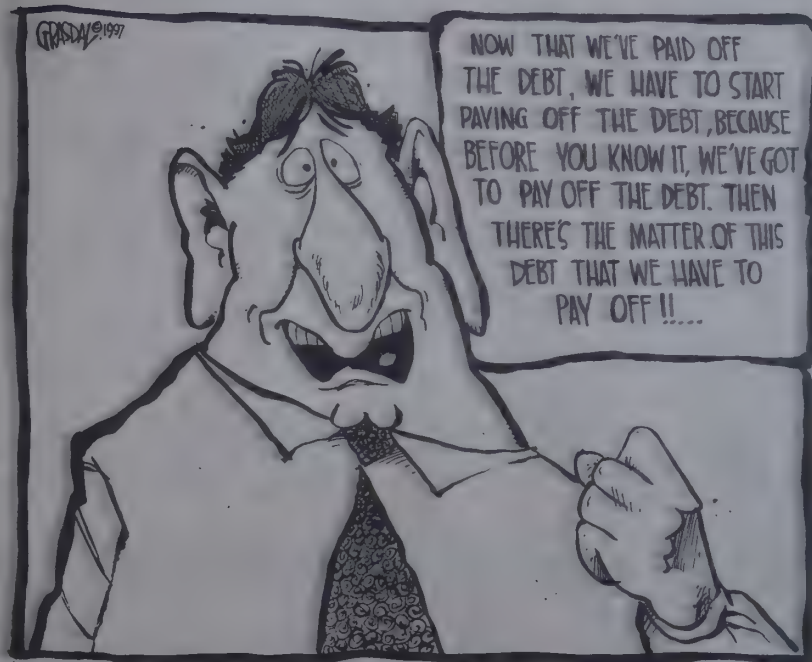
The NDs are also calling for the Hepatitis victims to be compensated by the government.

### Liberals urge Tories to abide by Kyoto standards

Alberta Liberal Environmental Protection Critic Debby Carlson is asking the ruling Tories to dig deep and come up with some constructive proposals for the next century in the wake of the recent Kyoto Conference.

The Japanese conference on climate change gave ministers from across the world the opportunity to address the topic of global warming and so-called greenhouse gases. In it, delegates decided that Canada should reduce greenhouse emissions by six per cent (from 1990 levels) by the year 2012.

The Tories have been adamant in their opposition to a carbon tax or any kind of Ottawa-imposed levy designed to curb the use of greenhouse-gas emitting fuels. Even though the greenhouse effect—the global warming of the planet caused by the accumulation of carbon-based gases in the atmosphere—has been widely accepted by the media and the public, there is no conclusive scientific proof that it



actually exists.

But Carlson believes it's high time the government started to promote technological skills to reduce emissions and promote industries which have already done their part to reduce greenhouse gases.

"The sooner we start, the better," says Carlson. "And some companies have been holding back until they get credit for their actions."

She says that the Alberta government must start finding creative solutions to reduce the gases. The status quo won't be good enough, she asserts.

"They abolished the Energy Efficiency Branch several years ago and missed opportunities to promote wind energy in the Pincher Creek area," said Carlson. "Unlike other provinces, Alberta's one-and-a-half page, unpublished submission on climate change at last month's Regina meeting contained no specific proposals on what the province could do."

If Alberta can promote technological advances, it can then market it to the Third World, reducing greenhouse gases in different part of the globe, asserts Carlson.

### EAC gets \$75,000 bonus

City council voted last week to grant the Edmonton Arts Council and additional \$75,000 in funding in the '98 budget.

That means the city's funding of the arts will rise by six per cent this year. The City will give the

EAC \$2.2 million in 1998

"The arts are a vital part of a healthy economy and sound social infrastructure," said EAC executive director Josh Keller. "A recent study jointly undertaken by the EAC with Economic Development Edmonton revealed that the economic impact of the arts in Edmonton is \$75 million."

The extra \$75,000 will be funneled to Edmonton artists after peers adjudicate their work.

It's the second bit of good news for the EAC in two weeks. Last week, the EAC got a \$25,000 loan to keep Tix on the Square, the ticket kiosk designed to promote local arts organizations and act as a rush booth, open.

### Irish eyes will smile at Rights Conference

Right-wing pundits have a year to sharpen their pens in preparation for a major international human rights conference which will be held in Edmonton Nov. 26-28, 1998.

The conference will host over 400 delegates from around the globe, including former Irish president Mary Robinson, who was instrumental in helping Ireland overturn its outdated divorce laws.

The conference will mark the 50th anniversary of the United Nations' universal declaration of human rights. The conference, themed "Universal Rights and Human Values: A Blueprint for Justice and Freedom" promises to have a strong educational component and special sessions will

be designed for youth participation.

### El Niño almost claims Edmonton Queen

El Niño, the Pacific Ocean warm-water current, has been credited for Edmonton's unseasonably mild winter—but last weekend, it almost claimed our showboat, the *Edmonton Queen*.

The riverboat was docked for the winter but is still open for events. Edmonton's unseasonably warm temperatures caused the North Saskatchewan River to rise rapidly, causing a water and ice wall to rise and strike the *Queen*, totally destroying its leading ramp. Only two mooring ropes tied to the shore prevented the *Queen* from being taken down the river with the ice floes. There were 10 people on board the ship when the incident happened Sunday morning, only minutes before at least 80 children were to board the ship for a Christmas party.

Some of the people on board managed to leap to safety, but emergency crews had to be called in to remove at least three people from the vessel. Crews also struggled to re-secure the boat. Luckily, damage to the *Edmonton Queen* was minimal.

Temperatures hit an astounding 15 C in Edmonton over the weekend. El Niño is playing havoc with the worldwide climate. California is experiencing torrential downpours and the Nagano Winter Olympics are being threatened by a lack of cold temperatures in Japan.

# VUEnews

BY LESLEY PRIMEAU

## Province doesn't care about battered women

The festive season is upon us. In spite of the lack of snow, most families are busy decorating homes, putting up trees, shopping for that perfect gift. This is the season where the folks of the capital dig deep for those less fortunate—yep Matilda, even in the capital city of the Alberta Advantage there are those less fortunate.

There are all kinds of worthy causes, all kinds of people in need—depending on the charity and goodwill of others to make their Christmas a little brighter. Of course that spirit of giving, of understanding, of goodwill toward men doesn't really ring through the dome of the Legislature where the grinch of government hang out—waiting to dampen the seasonal mood. These would be the same people who deny there are poor people in the province. There are mere people who won't work. As for the homeless, well, some street people are kinda groovin' to the street beat and no doubt thanking their lucky stars we have no snow. As for poor kids, well, just look at their parents—they simply won't get off their butts and provide.

But enough on that cause, the festive season also brings about a renewed interest in domestic violence. You know, it's much like football during the holiday season—you can almost set your watch by the increase in demand for shelters. Which brings me to the grinch-of-the-week award. Going to the wonderfully compassionate, Minister of Social Services, Dr. Lyle Oberg. He not only understands the concept of domestic violence and the need for shelters, but has clearly read his department's mandate for said shelters. Why it was just the other day when the penny-pinching minister issued that well-thought-out statement regarding the use of shelters by women. His claim—there are far too many homeless women using the shelters, we simply don't have enough of the battered type. Now I wasn't sure if that meant we weren't trying hard enough to pound the stuffing out of women and children—or maybe the minister was trying to focus attention on the number of homeless in the province.

No wait—let me take that back. A statement to that effect would require acknowledgment of a social ill. Oberg's department has been watching the women's shelters for some time now. It was just a few months ago that his department was trying to determine just how many women were plugging up the beds, not needing to escape from abusive situations. Obviously battered women's shelters are a hot commodity. How else would you explain using the shelters when you don't need to? So there is a problem with the shelters we don't know about. Is there a secret agenda somewhere? I mean, with all the departments government has, you think they'd have few areas to check for overspending before attacking women and children, but then this government hasn't exactly been championing the cause of the underdog.

The Premier's biggest dogs—the one in justice, the one in social services and the one responsible for the dollars—seem rather handy with a quip or two off the cuff. It might be considered rather innocuous if what they say didn't have so much sway. I find it troubling to think how successful this government has been in convincing the average advantaged Albertan the poor are to blame.

And now, women trying to leave abusive situations are faced with government that not only doesn't understand the situation, but doesn't really care. Now it's just me and I am definitely a cynic, but when do you suppose the government is going to stop picking on women? Hey guys—remember the old saying, hell hath no fury like a woman scorned...

Lesley Primeau may be heard weekdays from 6-9 p.m. on 630 Q157.



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BESTSELLER information

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SMITHBOOKS

Edmonton Centre

## BOOKS

BY LORENA WISLER

Sometimes the truth is too ugly. People rarely want to hear the worst. That's what Anna Hillen taught her sons Ernest and Jerry when they arrived in Canada after spending three-and-a-half years in a camp during the Second World War. People kept asking her what it had been like and how bad it had been. Instead of talking about the atrocities they had seen and experienced, she told about the generosity and resilience of spirit she had seen.

Ernest Hillen's second book, *Small Mercies: A Boy After War*, is about the two years immediately following his family's release from the Japanese war camps in Indonesia. His first book, *The Way of a Boy*, was about the war camp years, but does not have to be read before this one.

"It was friends who said 'why don't you write about that time?'" says Hillen, now a journalist. "That's how the first book came along. I didn't think about those years in the camp very much. Then I wrote the first book and they liked it—both the publishers and the people who wrote in and wanted to know what else happened to this kid. We know he survived the war and then what happened? That's what this one is—a sequel, but it stands alone. You needn't have read the first one."

The book begins with the day peace was declared. Hillen's family had been Dutch colonists in Indonesia when war broke out. Because the people of Indonesia were ready to revolt against the Dutch, the prisoners in the camp could not celebrate or in any way let the Indonesians know that the Japanese were no longer in control of the mostly Dutch camp population.

After a miraculous reunion with his father and older brother, it was decided that Hillen's mother and her sons would make their way to her native Canada, while their father stayed in Indonesia, worked, sent them money and made a new home for them. The three Hillens sailed first to London, where they got stuck for a few months. The British government had agreed to pay for passage to Canada on the strength of Anna Hillen's Canadian citizenship but now refused, saying she had taken Dutch citizenship when she married Jan Hillen. Eventually, Anna's family in Canada wired the money for the trip and the rest of the voyage was made.

Arriving in Canada in 1946, young Hillen wanted desperately to be like the other Canadian boys and he worked very hard toward that end. Actually, he worked very hard in general. The three Hillens first lived with Anna's parents, who expected them to pull their weight. Back in Indonesia, Hillen's father was rarely able to send them money. Hillen and his brother Jerry were expected to have part-time and summer jobs and to contribute most of their earnings to the family income.

Hillen says: "Yes, that has changed completely. Kids that have jobs today—that go away to work in the summer or deliver papers—there's no question of sharing that money, except perhaps in very poor families. And we were, of course, very poor. But I loved what I was doing. When I left Canada, until I returned five years later, I really longed for Canada."

Hillen's summer jobs, in particular, demanded hard physical labour of the 11- and 12-year-old boy. After about two years, Hillen's father was able to send for them and they returned to Indonesia—which is where the story ends.

*Small Mercies* has a bit of the same small boy's wonderment of W.O. Mitchell's *Who Has Seen the Wind*, but with a slightly grittier edge. It's a good tale of what happens after the war ends, but it's also an interesting look at childhood in mid-1940s Canada.

Ernest Hillen

*Small Mercies: A Boy After War*  
Viking; 206 pp.; \$27.99

# Small-town rinks rekindle hockey magic

## BOOKS

BY STEVEN JANDOR

Scott Russell and Chris Cuthbert are well-known faces on Canada's most venerable TV program, *Hockey Night in Canada*.

But the duo have just released a book celebrating some of Canada's best-known small-town big rinks, the places that feed the NHL with the talent it needs to keep Canada's longest-running TV program on the air.

*The Rink: Stories from Hockey's Home Towns*, is a coast-to-coast tour of some of the nation's most lasting arena legacies. The tour begins in Cuthbert's home

town of Brampton, Ont., a place where lacrosse—not hockey—is still respected as Canada's official national sport. The Brampton Excelsiors, Cuthbert explains, are one of the most successful sports teams in the country, capturing lacrosse's Mann Cup six separate times. Cuthbert also pens a chapter about Notre Dame College in Wilcox, Sask., the hockey prep school that gave the NHL the talents of Wendel Clark, Gary Lee-man, James Patrick and Gord Kluzak. There's also a visit to Viking, Alta., the town that produced the Sutter brothers, and Russell's profile of Cahill Stadium in Summerside, P.E.I., where local island rivalries are as fierce as any found

in the NHL. "Gerard Gallant [former Red Wings ace] was coaching there at a game against Charlottetown and said that the place was packed to the rafters and he had never seen so many people in his life," says Cuthbert, in Edmonton to promote the book. "Now this is a place that seats 3,000, max. And this comes from a guy who's played in front of more than 19,000 at Joe Louis Arena. But that's what being in your home town can mean to you, when the old rivalries are still heated."

The duo split the work on fairly geographical lines; Russell is the main host for the CBC's Montreal telecasts, so he handled the Eastern part of the country; Cuthbert is the late-game play-by-play man, so he took on most of the Western Canadian sites. They squeezed in profiles and interviews on-off time between events, just to prove that the love of hockey is still strong in this country—despite NHL franchises in Carolina and Tampa Bay, multi-million dollar contracts which make it harder for the average family to go to games and the loss of franchises in Winnipeg and Quebec City.

"The game doesn't only exist at the NHL level," says Cuthbert. "It's still a beloved game and a very big part of Canadian family life, far away from the world of multi-million dollar contracts. In the next few years, I think we're going to see a renaissance in the popularity of junior hockey in this country, as more fans see it as an affordable alternative for the family."

Towns that have strong junior hockey traditions have a way of passing excellence on through the generations. The Flin Flon (Manitoba) Bombers are a perfect example. In 1957, the Bombers won the Memorial Cup, junior hockey's national championship prize. Eleven years later, Flin Flon sons Bob-

by Clarke and Reggie Leach rose to prominence at the Whitney Arena. Later, they would sip from the Stanley Cup together as Philadelphia Flyers.

"Now, there's a new generation of Bombers," says Cuthbert. "Ken Baumgartner [San Jose] and Reid Simpson [Calgary] are fueled by the stories of the past, Cassie Campbell [Canada's national women's team] says you can feel the ghosts of the past there."

Being honored by your hometown often means more than any NHL accolade. Cuthbert relates the story of former North Stars great Craig Hartsburg, who played his junior hockey for the Sault Ste. Marie Greyhounds;

"When I talked to Craig, he told me the greatest hockey honor he has ever had is when they retired his number in Sault Ste. Marie. It meant more to him than any honor in the NHL. He went to Sault Ste. Marie as a boy and it made him a man. He felt very strongly about that. I think that's why so many go back to their home towns when their NHL careers are over. They go back to those rinks where they spent their childhoods and they want to give something back."

One common thread Cuthbert and Russell found throughout their journeys is that the rink is still the centre of small-town Canada. It is still our meeting place.

"It's the likeliest place where you will meet up with your neighbors," says Cuthbert. "If you're looking for a place that defines Canada's small towns, there's no better place than the rink. That's where we've spent our winters, from generation to generation."

Chris Cuthbert and

Scott Russell

*The Rink: Stories from Hockey's Home Towns*  
Viking; 332 pp. \$32

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# Insomnia pill turns into rape tool

## HEALTH

BY LYDIA GOATCHER

**Y**ou wake up in a strange bed—alone, naked and bruised. Even though you had only one drink, you have a raging headache and you can't remember the last 10 hours, so you ask yourself in a dazed panic—what happened?

You may have been slipped the "date-rape drug," Rohypnol. As if things weren't bad enough, you can't remember who you were with or exactly what was done to you, making it difficult to press charges against your violator.

Rohypnol, or more popularly called "Roche" (Row-shay), "Roach," the "Forget pill," "roofie" and "rape-drug," is quickly becoming the drug of choice for rapists. The small, white, two mg tablet dissolves easily in soft drinks, beer and liquor—imparting no taste, color or odor that would alert the victim.

The drug acts quickly (within 30 minutes), resulting in drowsiness, loss of inhibition and judgment, slowed motor muscle movement and a production of a dream-like hypnotic state. In cases of high dosage, amnesia results. When used in conjunction with alcohol, the effect is intensified and can result in death.

Rohypnol (generic name: flunitrazepam) is used as a surgical anesthetic and legally prescribed for severe insomnia in over 60 countries.

It has not, however, been approved for use in the United States or Canada.

The drug was initially introduced into Florida in 1992 in the aftermath of Hurricane Andrew when Latino work crews (including roofers) were brought in to repair damage. Drug enforcement officials in the U.S. say Rohypnol is presently being illegally transported by distributors in Texas who travel to Mexico—and in Florida where the drug arrives chiefly by mail or commercial airlines from Colombia.

According to Sgt. Kevin Graham, Drug Awareness Coordinator with the RCMP (Edmonton), possession of a controlled substance such as Rohypnol without prescription in Canada is an offense under the regulations of the Controlled Drug Act.

Instances of proven assault using Rohypnol have been documented in the United States, particularly in Florida, California and Texas. Police in Canada are gearing up for the appearance of the drug in sexual assault cases here.

Edmonton Police Service media relations personnel Annette Bodniak and Brenda Camp have gathered information describing the problem in Canada. To date, suspected cases of chemically-assisted sexual assault using Rohypnol have been reported in Calgary and Ontario.

Assault cases associated with Rohypnol can only be confirmed if the drug is detected in urine. A test must be done 60-72 hours after the attack.

Unfortunately, most victims do not seek medical attention within this time limit.

In October 1997, Hoffman-La Roche, manufacturers of the drug, announced they have modified the Rohypnol pill so that it turns clear drinks blue and dark drinks murky with visible residue. Approval by the Food and Drug Administration must be acquired before the new pill can be distributed.

To protect yourself from the huge arsenal of drugs available for assault purposes Catherine Hedlin of the Sexual Assault Center in Edmonton recommends that "the best way to avoid this happening is to have a buddy system when you go out. Look out for each other. Always let a friend know where you are going to be and, if possible, get a phone number where they can reach you. Never give a stranger your phone number. They can obtain your address through the directory available at the public library."

Both men and women are at risk. Being aware that the situation exists and using common sense is your best protection. Usually, the offender is a person that keeps a low profile and works quietly. Authorities recommend that you never accept a drink from a stranger, always keep an eye on your drink and take it with you wherever you go—even to the washroom.

As Graham puts it, "It is better to order a new drink for the sake of a few dollars if you've left yours unattended than to take a chance."

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# Many mommies make up mythical Mormon household

## HUMOR

BY JAMON SUMMERS

**I** met Mr. and Mrs. and Mrs. and Mrs. and Mrs. and Mrs. Brigham Splendor just outside of Salt Lake City.

They, as old-time Mormons once did, practice plural marriage. Today, the Mormons (the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints) excommunicates any of its members involved in polygamy.

The Splendors have chosen to engage in what they call "celestial" or plural marriage. They believe God has commanded them to live this "higher law."

Mr. and Mrs. and Mrs. and Mrs. and Mrs. and Mrs. Splendor have 62 children and their family is still growing. I met with them in a large log house at the foot of the Wasatch Mountain Range where they and dozens of other polygamists have settled.

The Splendor wives are named after days of the week. I asked Brigham Splendor about this.

"Since there are so many of them and so few of me, we had to set up some kind of order system," said the white-haired and bearded patriarch.

"What about the children?" I asked.

"Letters of the alphabet for kids," said Brigham. "Order, that's the secret of running a household this size." Twelve kids ran by, chasing seven dogs.

"Gosh, I'd get confused," I said. "Sometimes I get a little mixed up. I mean it's awkward having five wives."

"Why?" I asked. "You got your seven days in a week and your five wives. It's not the way the Lord wanted it. There's a reason there are seven days."

"You mean you should have seven wives?"

"Are you nuts?" he asked. "Even the Lord rested on the seventh day. I am however, looking for one more wife—we're going to call her Saturday."

"Darling," called Friday, from bedroom five. "It's 7:04, you're supposed to be here. I'm waiting."

"Coming, Friday, coming," sighed

Brigham Splendor. He finished off his plate of oysters and washed them down with a pint of Ginseng tonic, then staggered down the hallway.

He tripped, but one of his children handed him a cane and he was able to regain his balance. A bedroom door opened and a hand yanked him in.

The child came over to where I was sitting and smiled up at me. She had long blonde hair and beautiful blue eyes.

"I'm K," she said. "Oh, how do you spell that?" I asked.

"Just the letter K, all of us kids are called letters, it makes things easier for our daddies."

"I thought you only had one daddy," I said. "And many mommies."

"We have many mommies all the time but one daddy at a time," said K.

"Oh, I guess the community runs your daddies out of town," I said. "That must be difficult for you."

Wednesday took K by the hand and said it was time for the kids to get ready for bed.

There was much yelling and hooting and pandemonium as the older children and the wives rounded up the younger kids. Someone made a cauldron of hot chocolate and about a 100 cookies. These were distributed to the screaming mob.

Brigham Splendor staggered back and fell into a chair beside me. With a shaking hand, he tried to open a bottle of vitamin E. I uncapped it for him and he swallowed a handful of pills. His breathing was

labored

"Are you all right?" I asked the old man

"I'm fine, just fine. My wives are very loving but they can be somewhat demanding. Thank the Lord I'm only 23."

I gasped. The white-haired man looked at least 70. I supposed he realized my surprise.

"I know I look a bit older than I am but it's part of the price for keeping the Lord's higher commandments."

A five-year-old raced through the house, pulling a toy train. Brigham started to twitch.

"Isn't that special?" asked Thursday. "Your son misses you."

Shaking, Brigham picked up the child and bounced him on his knee.

"We had to start at the alphabet again and incorporate numbers," explained the young patriarch. "This is R-3."

"R-2!" screamed the tike and bit Brigham on his chin. Brigham wept as Thursday took the child from him.

As his wife walked away, she looked back and smiled at Brigham and said, "I'll meet you in my bedroom at nine sharp. After, we can discuss when you want to meet the new one?"

"The n-n-new one?" asked Brigham.

"Yes, the one we'll name Saturday." She winked and was gone. Brigham slipped a heart pill under his tongue.

"How do you afford all of this?" I asked.

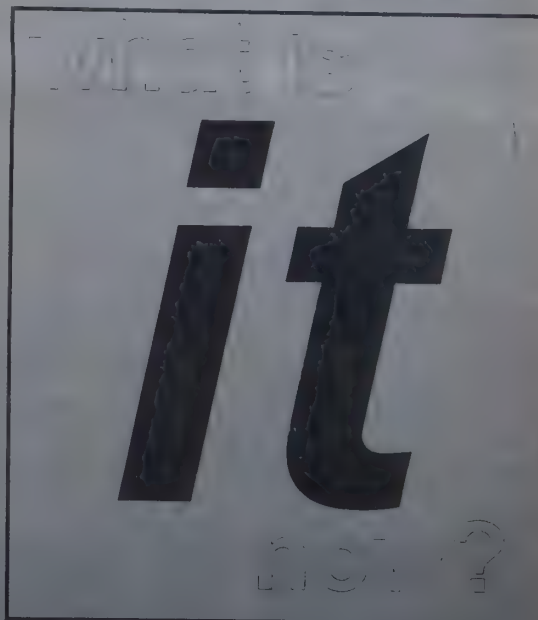
"Oh, the wives have an insurance policy. Anything happens to

me, they get \$5 million."

"Really. But how do you live now?" I asked.

"We're collecting on two previous policies from their last two husbands who lived here before they died. This is a tough job."

"Brigham," said a sweet voice from the hall, "it's almost nine."



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# Fashion gets interactive on the Web

## STYLE

BY COLLEEN GANTON

For those of you who still think computers are boring, it's time you get interactive. I recently did some research on the Internet and found it to be a thriving computerland packed with web sites about fashion and beauty from around the globe. You can hook up any time day or night and go shopping, check out the latest runway snapshots or even gab on-line in a fashion chat room.

Getting access to the Internet is much easier than it used to be—and well worth the effort. With the guidance of a computer professional to set up your system, you could be browsing designer galleries in no time.

While searching for fashion on the World Wide Web, I found some very impressive sites that not only provide great information but lead you to discover other remarkable sites:

• <http://www.hypermode.com>—this site contains tons of useful fashion information. Pictures, bulletin boards and links to other great sites are just a prelude to what this site has to offer.

• <http://www.firstview.com>—this site contains thousands of runway snapshots from designer shows. Categorized by year and

season, hundreds of designers offer access to the past season pics. Unfortunately, in order to view the Spring '98 designs you must pay a subscription fee.

• <http://www.fashionnet.com>—this site calls itself

"Your guide to fashion on the web" and rightfully so. It has a search engine within it that turns up possible matches to any topic on fashion and beauty you request. It is a fantastic resource for finding new websites and discovering fun accessories like chat rooms and bulletin boards.

• <http://www.fashionmall.com>—If shopping online sounds interesting to you, then you must visit this site. Offering a complete list of stores open for online purchasing, this site gives great information that is easy to follow.

If you have never checked out fashion sites on the web, now is the time. Shopping is done with the simple click of a button—some sites even offered baskets to carry



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purchases in.

Despite the infinite possibilities the World Wide Web holds, fashion seekers must beware. The Internet is largely unregulated, a problem that leads to misleading information and swindling. Using common sense is essential when making a purchase on line or giving out personal information. If you have doubts about a product or service for sale, do some investigating before you commit yourself.

Getting interactive is entertaining and fun. Most large fashion retailers have web sites, so save yourself some time and have some fun by browsing online before you hit the stores.

## Edmonton: poverty capital

continued from page 4

but that doesn't mean everything I say or do is politically motivated," Bechtel responds. "It was a case of the government attacking the messenger. It was simple and real data that was revealed. It isn't that complex. It was an attempt by the Minister of Social Services to distract from the issues which are family and children. It was an at-

tempt to intimidate me and other agencies who may expose similar problems caused by the government. He said that they were going to investigate the findings and have our funding pulled. I admit I was intimidated. I think it shows a lack of democracy and civil being in this province."

As far as the study itself, the bottom line of the findings is that the increase in absolute poverty described in the research is a direct result of people being cut off welfare who are now forced to

struggle in low-paying jobs. These are jobs that offer no reliable form of income and no opportunity for advancement to a better quality of living.

This is a study that seems to be based more on ideological conviction than it does on research and figures, but in the end, the horrible reality is that more and more children, through no fault of their own, are finding themselves living in abject poverty. This doesn't say much for the current state of our city or its future.

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CRJ 1218

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CRJ 1204/DIVA

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CRJ 111988 / CASTLE

## NOTICES

Down Star Dance & Dine  
Come Celebrate New Years Eve with us  
Buffet Dinner 7 p.m.  
Dance - till 4 a.m.  
Doors open 6 p.m. \$15.00  
414-1701

CRJ 1211-01-

Help Prevent Clear-cut Logging within Canada's own  
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CRJ 1218

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CRJ 1211

**FRIENDS FOR LIFE**  
For more information please  
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471-1774

## VOLUNTEER

The Western Canada Wilderness Committee needs a  
well-groomed person with sales experience to promote  
art that is available to be sold. A minimum of approx 8 hrs per  
week necessary. Call 420-1001.

CRJ 1204

The Edmonton Theatre Squared Society are looking for  
volunteers to fill positions for 1998 season. Directors,  
Assistant Directors, Stage Managers and Assistant Stage  
Managers. Between 14-25 yrs. PH 498-1271 before  
Dec. 22, 1997. Also positions for volunteer Technician  
Stages, Front of House Personnel. If interested contact  
before Feb. 14, 1998. PH 498-1271.

CRJ 1204-1222 & 0214

Add a New Dimension! The Friends of University Hospital  
are looking for responsible adults to join our Candy Shop  
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how to get started, call 492-8428.

CRJ 1204

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Volunteer to teach English to adult immigrants: days or  
evening, small groups, training provided. Call Paulette,  
424-3545.

CRJ 1211

Edmonton Theatre Squared Society looking for volunteer  
Directors, Stage Managers, ASMs and AD's for the 8th  
annual Carnival of Shrieking Youth.  
Contact 498-1271 before Dec. 22.

CRJ 1200

Travel the World. Newcomers to Canada would love to  
make Canadian Friends. Newcomers require friendship  
and support, help with conversational English and learning  
about Edmonton. No second language required.  
Call the Host Program at 424-3545.

CRJ 1209

Toxic waste in your backyard? For information and advice,  
Call ENVIRLINE: 413-8830 providing answers to all your  
environmental questions! Household hazardous waste,  
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much much more! Presented by the Toxic Watch Society  
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CRJ 1212

**FIRST NIGHT FESTIVAL SEEKING VOLUNTEERS!**  
Seeking volunteers to assist with the festival's pre-fest and  
on-site activities. Any interested persons are asked to call  
Caroline at the First Night Office at 440-9200. Available  
positions: activity leaders, Prop builders, painters, information  
booth attendants, costumed characters, and more.

CRJ 1108

**WOMEN IN TRADES PROGRAM INTERESTED IN  
PROMOTING WOMEN INTO NON-TRADITIONAL  
CAREERS IN TRADES & TECHNOLOGY FIELDS?**  
EMPLOYMENT DEVELOPMENT SERVICES is currently  
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CRJ 1204

Support the Citadel! Volunteer for the Hello Dolly! Raffle  
and receive complimentary theatre tickets. Call Andrea at  
426-4811, ext. 240.

CRJ 1211-18

**FIRST NIGHT FESTIVAL SEEKING VOLUNTEERS!**  
To assist with the festival's pre-fest and on-site activities.  
Any interested persons are asked to call Caroline at 448-  
9200. Available positions include activity leaders, prop  
builders, painters, information booth attendants, costumed  
characters, and more.

CRJ 1201-1221

Make a world of difference by volunteering only 2-3 hrs a  
week with a family in need. Call Annik Moreau, Alberta  
Family & Social Services. 431-6745.

CRJ 0724

Boys' and Girls' Clubs of Edmonton 1997 Fall  
Recruitment Campaign. Volunteer with Boys' & Girls'  
Clubs of Edmonton. Programs involve sports, outdoors,  
arts and crafts, music, reading, nutrition, cooking and life  
skills. For information phone: 422-6038

CRJ 0712

**MAKE A DIFFERENCE:** Newcomers to Canada would  
love to make Canadian friends. Newcomers require  
friendship and support, help with conversational English  
and learning about Edmonton. No second language required.  
Call the Host Program at 424-3545.

CRJ 0824

**WANT TO GET SOME REALLY IMPORTANT PHONE  
C A L L S ?**  
The Distress Line answers over 2,500 calls a month from  
people in need and we need your help to ensure those calls  
get answered. If you can provide 4 hours a week, we'll  
provide excellent training and a very rewarding experience.  
Our next training session is in January. For more information  
call The Support Network 482-0198.

CRJ 1218-0115 / 98

Become a Friendly Visitor in your community. Volunteer with  
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CRJ 1202

## PERSONAL SERVICES

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CRJ 0108 / 98

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4 level split where the garage of your dreams  
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asking new price of \$73,000.

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3 & 2 bedroom home with room to park  
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3 bedroom bung, with full basement on  
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2 bedroom bung, with full basement on  
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**998-7801**

To view these homes

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CRJ 0108 / 98

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CRJ 1211

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AT NO COST to participants  
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For further information call  
Chrysalis Intake 454-9656

CRJ 1218

**PLEASE  
RECYCLE THIS  
COPY OF  
VUE WEEKLY**



# FAST FASHIONS

Last week's Dregs' fashion show had a little bit of everything. Colorful and angelic wings, dancing marionette models and enough corsets to put the romantic, bodice-ripping image in everyone's head.

Darren Wolf

## REAL-LIFE TELEPERSONALS PRESENTS:

"What's going on out there?"

### SHE SAID

"I was curious to see what kind of cheats and liars were out there!"

I first called Telepersonals as a joke! Hey, I've known enough guys to know that they're all the same. So I just wanted to let off steam. But you know what? It's really fun! You get hooked right away and it's a great way to meet new friends. I got dozens of messages in just the first week alone. There's always someone on-line, but definitely not the usual gang of "cheats and liars" I expected. And of course, there was a message from someone named Anthony...

Ann Gerreiro - 22, student teacher, dynamic dancer, and 100% real live Telepersonals user.

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IMC does not pre-screen its callers and assumes no liability when meeting with someone through its service. Be 18 years of age or older only. \*Free to call. Long distance charges may apply outside the Edmonton area.

# REAL LIFE

## Telepersonals®

PRESENTS: "THIS WEEK'S TOP ADS"

### Women seeking Men

This is Sandy. I'm a 5'5" tall, 135 lb., honest, country girl with long, dark hair & hazel eyes. I love country music, horses, & family. I'm looking for someone to go out with & two-step the night away. We must start as friends & see where it goes from there. There's a soft spot in my heart for a cowboy. If this sounds good to you, box me back. Box 3419.

I'm an attractive, youthful lady who wishes to meet an honest, sincere, gentleman in his mid 30's for a long term relationship. I enjoy doing the outdoors, TV home life, traveling, & camping. Serious replies only. Box 3278.

My name is Tracy. I'm a 22 yr. old, student looking for friendship. I love to laugh. If you'd like to find out more about me, box me back. Box 8129.

I'm a 5'5" tall, 118 lb., soft, affectionate, exotically beautiful female with long, brunette hair & olive skin. I'm single with no dependents. I worked in modeling & PR. I enjoy movies, dancing, piano, reading, board games, horseback riding, animals, nature, & much more. If you're interested, & attractive, contact me. Box 3109.

My name is Angela. I'm a 24 yr. old, 5'2" tall, 105 lb., petite female with blonde hair & blue eyes. I live in the city with two kittens. I work long & unusual hours. I'm looking for a responsible, mature, intelligent man for good conversation. I enjoy reading, Melfore Place, & being social. If this sounds interesting, leave me a message. Box 3912.

I'm a 40 yr. old, 5'2" tall, fit, full-figured university educated, smart, successful, professionally employed woman with brown hair, green eyes, & no dependents. I'm a non-smoker who's free to have a happy, healthy, fun relationship. I'm interested in someone who would like to share in a happy, active, simple, peaceful lifestyle that includes exercising, sports, the outdoors, festivals, theater, concerts, & spending time with friends & family. If you're an intelligent guy with a quick & witty mind, who's communicative, competent, & comfortable in many situations, financially secure, emotionally available, & physically active, leave me a message. Box 3911.

My name is Betty. I'm a 37 yr. old, 5'0" tall, full-figured female with long, curly, blonde hair & green eyes. I'm looking for a kind gentleman who will treat me well, likes children, & is interested in a long term relationship. If you're interested, box me back. Box 4936.

I'm a tall, fit, divorced female with dark hair & dark eyes. I'm looking for casual dating. I enjoy poetry, painting, studying, & much more. I'm new here from Europe. If you're interested, & would like to know more, leave me a message. Box 6827.

This is Tammy. I'm a 58" tall, 130 lb. female with brown hair & brown eyes. If you're interested, box me back. Box 8330.

I'm looking for a male friend to talk to & possibly meet. If you're interested, box me back. Box 8114.

This is Lorraine. I'm a 31 yr. old, 5'3" tall, 125 lb., professionally educated, never married female with glasses, brown hair & blue eyes. I'm a smoker. I have a variety of interests including swimming, skiing, snow shoveling, scuba diving, dining, movies, & much more. I'm looking for a 30-40 yr. old, single male with no dependents, who's employed, a social drinker, has a wide variety of interests. I'd like to start a friendship leading to a long term relationship. If this has piqued your interest, box me back. Box 2993.

This is Dee. I'm a 120 lb., slim, athletic, active female with strawberry blonde hair. I'm a complex person. I like diamonds & denim, boots & heels, pick-ups & Mercedes, silks & satins, country & rock, & much more. If you think you're interested, get back to me. Box 7381.

This is Marie. I'm a 16 yr. old, 5'8" tall, 149 lb., single, white woman with auburn hair, hazel eyes & long, dark eyelashes. I'm an intelligent, employed lady with a good nature & a good sense of humor. I love sports, camping, fishing, the outdoors, cooking, long walks, movies, dining, & cuddling up on the couch. I'd like to talk to & possibly meet an attractive, fit man to go out & do things as a friend or buddy. You must be honest & true. If my ad interests you, get back to me. Box 2959.

This is Mary. I'm a 35 yr. old, 5'7" tall, good looking, native female with glasses, brown hair & brown eyes. I'm a smoker & social drinker. I have two children. If you're interested, give me a call. Box 7218.

I'm a 26 yr. old, 5'7" tall female with a great smile, copper blonde hair & fascinating green eyes. I enjoy a 5K run & weight lifting regularly. I'm with the Armed Forces & love all aspects of the job. I also enjoy the more eclectic side of life. I love to cuddle with an attractive man who knows how to keep my fire burning. I'd like to find an emotionally mature 27-34 yr. old, fit, intelligent, honest, employed man with a good sense of humor, a love for children, & a creative mind. If you'd like to know more about me, box me back. Box 4827.

I'm a 25 yr. old female with brown hair & blue eyes. I'm looking for a guy with a sense of humor that's just a little off-side. If this sounds like you, give me a call. Box 6461.

I'm a 39 yr. old, intelligent, trustworthy, intelligent, classy, good looking, full-figured woman looking for a friend, confidant, & lover. You should be open-minded, honest, & straightforward like me. Looks & age are not important to me, it's your personality. If you're looking for a good friend, companion, & lover, give me a call. Box 3840.

This is Sharon. I'm a 25 yr. old, 5'7" tall, 160 lb. female with dark hair. I'm a single mother with a 3 yr. old son. I'm looking for someone to sweep me off my feet with chivalry & romance. I want to be treated like a lady. I have a great sense of humor. If you'd like to know more about me, give me a call. Box 2681.

My name is Carrie. I'm a 22 yr. old, 5'5" tall, 155 lb. female with short, brown hair & grey eyes. I'm the single mother of one. I'm looking for a single man, 26-29 yr. old, who likes kids & is drug-free. I enjoy reading, good conversation, movies, dining, or quiet evenings at home. If you're interested, get back to me. Box 10032.

### Men seeking Women

My name is Ian. I'm a fit, muscular, professional male with an advanced education. I'm well traveled & informed. I'd like to meet someone with an awareness in the rest of the world. I enjoy cooking, good wine, music, concerts, & more. If you're interested in a long term relationship & have a high integrity & personal philosophy, leave me a message. Box 5780.

I'm a 29 yr. old, 5'8" tall, 180 lb. male with a mustache. I'm looking for a relationship to add a little excitement to my life. If you're interested, box me back. Box 4261.

My name is Don. I'm a 5'10" tall, sexy, university educated, divorced, muscular male with dark, curly hair & green eyes. I have a little girl who's 4 yrs. old. I have a good sense of humor. I'm affectionate, sensual, romantic, & loving. If you're looking for an attractive, intelligent loving man, give me a shout. Box 9572.

This is Barry. I'm a 37 yr. old, 6'1" tall, 185 lb., attractive, slim male with brown hair, brown eyes, & no dependents. I have a great sense of humor & love to kid around. I'm looking for an attractive, slim to medium built, single or divorced, honest female with no baggage (if any of this sounds interesting, box me back. Box 5382).

This is Rick. I'm a 40 yr. old, 200 lb. male. To hear more, call Box 6139.

I'm a 34 yr. old, 5'5" tall male with brown hair & brown eyes. I'm a kind, honest, fun-loving, caring, person who's separated, & emotionally & financially stable. I'm looking for an honest, romantic, fun-loving lady for casual dating or a steady relationship. I enjoy dancing, camping, skiing, the outdoors, dining, & quiet evenings at home. If you'd like to know more about me, get back to me. Box 2590.

I'm a 28 yr. old, thin, attractive, white male who's spontaneous & open-minded & will try anything once. I'm looking for a fun, attractive, 20-30 yr. old, open-minded, spontaneous, humorous lady who would love to spend time together & still remain independent. You should know how to have fun & be serious when necessary. I know how to treat a lady & know what's required in a relationship. If you'd like to have a good time & perhaps become serious down the road, get back to me. Box 2590.

I'm a 5'11" tall, 180 lb. male with brown hair & brown eyes. I'm very open-minded. If you like what you hear, give me a call. Box 6022.

I'm a 5'11" tall, 219 lb., fit male with short, curly, brown hair & bluish grey eyes. I'm very intelligent, mature, & honest. I'm looking for an attractive, intelligent female 25-27 yr. old, with a great personality & a great sense of humor. If you think you can fill the hole in my heart, leave me a message. Box 1494.

My name is Ben. I'm a 20 yr. old, 6'1" tall, 160 lb., clean-shaven, attractive male with brown hair & grey eyes. I'm interested in a long term relationship with an attractive woman in my age group. I enjoy skiing, skating, camping, kayaking, the outdoors, & much more. If any of this sounds good to you, I'd love to hear from you. Box 0981.

I'm a 58" tall, athletic male with long, blond hair, blue eyes & a mustache. I don't have much money but am extremely affectionate, sensitive, loving & kind. I'm looking for a slim, never married woman with no dependents. If you'd like to know more about me, get back to me. Box 9591.

I was single, shy and didn't like bars.



Della Martin - 21, university student, single, intelligent, sexy, and 100% genuine Telepersonals user.

...sharing a good part of our lives together.



Della & Matthew

### Listen Free!

Call and listen FREE to these and 1,000's more exciting messages. There's no cost, no commitment, no hassles. You're in control. Place your own ad FREE! And get a FREE mailbox! If you decide to chat, or send or pick up a message, it's as low as 49¢ per minute (absolutely FREE for women). You can join the system instantly whenever you want. Just dial (403) 944-0500 and follow the easy voice prompts.

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No Way Out

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You've heard him on the radio, you've seen him on TV, now find out for yourself what all the ruckus is about. **NO WAY OUT** is the debut CD of superstar artist Puff Daddy and he brings the family along for the ride. Smooth grooves and tight lyrics will bomb your senses into oblivion. So, if you find yourself with no way out of boredom, head on over to HMV.

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